New Core unveiled

By DAVID GUSKIN

"It’s what most educated people do," said Professor Andrew Lange on science writing. "Once you’ve stripped away everything else, we’re really just communicating with each other."

In an effort to drive this point home to Caltech undergraduates and faculty, the ability to communicate one’s thoughts is as important as the thoughts themselves, the Core Curriculum Steering Committee (CCSC) has solidified science writing core requirement. The CCSC has brought in a professional editor, Gillian Piece, to administer the course to Caltech juniors.

The new class is required of future Juniors, but labeled as optional for current Juniors. Since the course is currently in development, this allows current Juniors to take the class as part of a pilot effort, but does not require them to do so.

The course itself is a two-term series, with one unit offered for the first term of draft writing and two units for the second term and final paper. In Lange’s words, the course is basically "a milliunit or a word."

“We encourage current Juniors to give the course a try, and we don’t have to,” remarked Lange and Pierce. "The course is offered both Winter and Spring terms this year to provide options for current juniors the option of taking it.”

Each student finds a faculty mentor to aid them in the editing of their paper for scientific content. Though the priority of the science is important, it is second to the fitness of the paper for publication in a scientific journal. Since each stu-
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rotation ends, and a new House life begins

To the Freshmen:

Rotation is over. You all have been spread throughout the seven undergraduate Houses. Some of you got into one of your top choices. You will soon discover that there are really cool people in your House. Some of you got into one of your bottom choices. You will soon discover that there are really cool people in your House. Neither of these things should be a surprise. Sucky people and cool people are a universal phenomenon, so don’t worry about it. How you ranked the Houses and where you did and didn’t get into doesn’t matter now. You are in the House that you are in for a reason. A lot of time and consideration went into finding the best match between you and your House. You are now a full and equal member of a House and that House will treat you as such. You should also give that House a chance.

Pretty soon the Houses will start with their annual initiations and traditions. All of these being completely voluntary, of course. If you do not want to participate in any of those activities, tell an upperclassman, the House President, or the R.A. Remember, these activities are meant to welcome you into the House. They are also meant to help you meet the upperclassmen and vice versa. These things will help you get rooted in the House.

While all this is going on, don’t forget about the other Houses. I’m pretty sure that the friends you made during Rotation didn’t all end up in the same House as you. Try to maintain these friendships. A common regret I hear from upperclassmen is not having done this. It’s not hard to do, it just requires some effort on your part. Oh no, the “E” word. Whatever, you can still go to their House dinners, do your homework together, or become a social member. There are plenty of things that you can do. Just remember, there isn’t an invisible barrier between your House and the other Houses.

I would like to mention one last thing about Rotation. It is not a perfect system; however, we find that it works pretty well for what it tries to do. There is room for improvement, though. To that end, a Rotation Survey will be coming out some time next week. Please take the time to fill it out and return it. Once the data has been collected and published, the IHC will be hosting some sort of open forum. This will allow both the freshmen and upperclassmen to express their concerns, offer suggestions, and/or just make comments. The IHC is always looking to improve the process and we are open to just about anything. Thanks,

Jaideep Singh
Chairman, Interhouse Committee (IHC)
in the Junior class must take Core Lab, professors must mentor one — but no more than one — student if asked. The CCSC stipulated this restriction as a way to prevent undue workload on a portion of the professorial faculty.

To aid students in the communications aspect of their scientific writing, Gillian Pierce will work one-on-one with each student to develop their skills in effectively communicating ideas. Whereas professor-mentors focus on the “science” component of the paper, Pierce will focus on the “writing” component.

“Our intent is to teach the art of writing,” said Lange. To prevent classic Techer procrastination syndrome, the course has been laid out in a way that budgets students time spent writing. The course sets guidelines for how much time one can spend on the pa-

The Outside World

By Katharina Kohler and Cheryl Forest

The California Tech earned respect and benefits like – great student pay, medical and dental care, management and travel opportunities. For more on how to qualify and get your career scoring with the Air Force Officer Training School, call 1-800-423-USAFT or visit our website at www.airforce.com.

The last challenge of a socially conscious society?

Depression strikes millions. Depression is simply a suppression of brain activity that makes life unbearable. And even though depression is mainly physical, it is a mental illness, and unfortunately, not everyone is capable of avoiding stress. In fact, scientists believe that the brain is more responsive to stress than the body is.

In order to fight depression, the first step is to acknowledge that it does exist. Many people believe that depression is something that only happens to others, not to them. This belief is false because depression can happen to anyone. It is very important to talk about depression and to get help if you feel that you are suffering from it.

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Housing: Crisis averted?

I would want to live,” (although he has yet to move in) and said that “everyone, including the administration, was impressed with the job that was done.” The neighbors around the new houses were also quite enthusiastic about the prospect of having a bunch of techers living next to them.

What does the future hold for these houses? They are not merely a make-shift measure to alleviate the problem for this year. “They will become nicer as people live in them,” said Mannion. The house on Chestert will certainly remain undergraduate housing, while the future of the other two will depend upon the housing demand for next year.

Feynman: Caltech pays tribute

Caltech pays tribute buying old favorites like “Surely You’re Joking,” and “What Do YOU Care What Other People Think?” or new ones such as the most recently released book compiled by Feynman’s children, Michelle and Carl, the professors were available for book signings and individual questions.

Feynman has touched many people, even those who never met him. As one Caltech undergrad said, “Feynman is my hero and role model.”
Opinion

Bloody Coup rocks East Timor, Caltech affiliates

BY BYRON PHILHOUR

On August 30, 98.6% of the registered voting population in East Timor cast their ballots on the question of integration with, or independence from, Indonesia. Four in five voters chose independence, despite a direct and highly credible threat from the Indonesian occupation army (the TNI) and their Timorese proxy forces that doing so would lead to the wholesale destruction of their country. Once the election results were announced, a military campaign planned long in advance began, and East Timor was literally destroyed.

Two people affiliated with Caltech were in East Timor on August 30th as United Nations accredited election observers. Physics post-doc Ravinder Bhatai spent three tense weeks in Maubisse, a town controlled by the MNDI death squads, surveying a leader of a diverse, five-person field team for the International Federation for East Timor (IFET), Ravinder compiled nightly and weekly reports which he sent to the main office in the capital, Dili. The family he stayed with lived right next door to the Mahidil leader. John Rossa, a historian of Indonesia who lived in Dili and stayed with him here at Caltech last year, spent two months in East Timor as an IFET coordinator. On September 5, he was literally forced out of East Timor after the office he was staying in was attacked: "With nearly 400 Indonesians and East Timorese, I lay silent on the floor as the bullets whizzed overhead and the windows crashed down," he later wrote. "We expected the militia to enter at any moment, but after an hour of heavy shooting, the militia passed on to other targets."

Both Ravinder and John knew what they were getting into. Before he left for East Timor, John spoke at Dabney House about the Indonesian invasion in 1975 and the subsequent genocide occupation which, according to Amnesty International and the Catholic Church, wiped out 200,000 people — nearly a third of the pre-invasion population. He spoke of the active support of the U.S. government in the form of soldiers trained, weapons sold, and U.S. Security Council resolutions declared. He showed an Australian documentary about the impending vote and associated violence. East Timorese international human rights organizations, the Australian press, and others were collecting and disseminating convincing evidence that the Indonesian military (TNI) was planning to destroy the country should the vote not go their way.

By using East Timorese proxy forces to carry out the TNI's orders, the TNI would count on the illusion of civil war to confuse the public abroad and thereby lessen pressure on Western governments to work with them in the TNI. To counter this, the East Timorese resistance army obeyed a cease-fire that lasted through and beyond the campaign period. The Los Angeles Times, however, fell victim to the ruse, making a laughable election-day claim that Indonesian President Habibie's offer of a referendum on independence "set off a wave of violence as untrue militias, particularly those supporting independence, set out to intimidate the opposition." (Ethnic Cleansing.) Under pressure from local activists, the Times later published a correction.

Despite clear evidence gathered by Ravinder as Ravinder's team, the United Nations, numerous human rights groups, and the international press that all of the systematic violence and intimidation in the area, the election was coming from pro-Indonesia "militias" (death squads) under the control of and infiltrated by the Indonesian military, the Clinton Administration continued to call on the TNI to "control" what the Los Angeles Times ridiculously described as "militia warfare." Thus the East Timorese became the new Rwandans, intentionally abandoned by the Clinton Administration at the peak of the slaughter. Much too late, an international force was deployed, allowing Australia, the U.K., and the U.S. the chance to take control, for both the occupation and the liberation. The majority of the U.S. public reacted with uninformed concern and confusion.

As reports trickle in, it appears that almost the entire country has been levelled. Most buildings have been destroyed and most towns emptied. The United Nations coordinator for humanitarian affairs is unable to account for nearly 600,000 people — 70% of the population. It is hoped that they are all in hiding. 50,000 East Timorese have trickled back into the capital city. An additional 200,000 people are stuck in West Timor in camps guarded by the death squads who forced them there. Leaders of the independence movement are displaying a taste for camps. Nobody has any idea how many people have died but, ominously, the massacred include elderly nuns and children. We'll know roughly how many fairly soon. Guesses are in the thousands to tens of thousands — approaching decimation of this small population.

At the height of the crisis, the Los Angeles and Pasadena chapters of the East Timor Action Network sponsored a demonstration at the Indonesian consulate in downtown Los Angeles. More than twenty Caltech students and staff were there — more than from UCLA. Representatives of the Catholic Church and other religious organizations spoke out against the Indonesian military and the complexity of the United States. More than one hundred and fifty people came; one was arrested for jaywalking by some officers from the notorious Rampart division (no priests were arrested, although they were equally guilty of jaywalking.) A woman whose American sister, a nun, was at that very moment hiding the family of East Timorese gue­ rilla leader Xanana Gusmao from the death squads, spoke movingly of her outrage and concern.

Four local news channel and a few newspapers came after countless calls and phone faxes.

A half dozen election observers talked to the press about their experiences on the steps of the consulate. They spoke about their first-hand evidence for the war crimes tribunals. Ravinder spoke about his worry for the family he stayed with: Amada and Gaspar da Costa, and their young kids. He explained Indonesia's involvement and the weeks Britons bailed-faced complicity. One local news channel gave the demonstration a few seconds coverage between their "Clanine Crooners" feature and a long story on a woman who claimed to have lost twenty pounds by wearing a magnet on her wrist.

Those of us working on East Timor have much left to do. Allan Nairn, the last U.S. journalist in East Timor, official 'em­ nty of the state' of Indonesia, and recent prisoner of the TNI, is coming through in a few weeks on a speaking tour, which we need to organize. We're also organizing panel and media events for Ravinder and other observers, relief collections at churches, congressional office visits, benefit shows, press conferences, etc. If you want to get involved or donate to the relief effort, visit www.etan.org, www.easttimor.com, and write bjp@astroph.eeil.

Ravinder can be reached on campus as well.

Byron Philhour is a grad stu­ dent in physics at Caltech.

CS1 reforms programming

BY MAYANKA PRASAD

Complaining about classes is a time-honored Caltech tradition. This year has a new target: CS1. Curriculum is the main source of dissatisfaction about Tech's introductory computer science course. The curriculum has already departed from past years with the addition of Java to the course. Java Junior is an introductory programming language developed by the course's instructor, David Epstein. Lecturer Epstein is a new addition to the Caltech faculty this year.

So far the CS1 curriculum has undergone many changes. Originally the course involved teaching Java Junior and Java. Later, the programming language C was added. Recently, Mr. Epstein announced that the class would learn Java Junior then proceed directly to C. Word from the TA's is that the curriculum remains uncertain is still on a "day to day" standing.

One of the main complaints about CS1 is that Java Junior is too simple of a language, and that Tutors are quite capable of learning C++ directly. There is more of a mixed opinion on learning more than one language in one course. While some believe that learning multiple languages in a term is just unnecessary work, others are glad to finesse between more than one language.

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Recaps from Caltech Games for the week of September 27-October 3

Men's and Women's Cross Country
In the men's open division, senior Ian Shapiro led Caltech with an 8K time of 27:03, good for 36th place out of 200 runners. Senior Adrian Seymour took 81st place with a time of 27:48 while senior Arjun Mendriatta finished 95th in a time of 28:07. In the women's open division, Caltech competed as a team for the first time this season. Freshman Tyler Kakuda led the team high of nine kills and eight digs in the two matches. Sophomore Dana Vukajlovich set a season-high with 12 assists in each match last week.

Water Polo (0-4)
The water polo team dropped three matches last week. Junior Eagle Jones was named to the all-tournament team at the Caltech Classic on Saturday (see athlete of the week). Fellow junior Tom Daula scored six points on four goals, including two two-pointers against Occidental. Sophomore Adam Thomason added five goals on two goals) and freshman Sask Byerly also scored for the Beavers.

Men's Soccer (0-6-1, 0-3 SCIAC)
The Beavers dropped a pair of SCIAC matches last week to Occidental and Redlands. Sophomore goalie Craig Vieregg made 18 saves for the week, including two two-pointers against Occidental. Sophomore Adam Thomason added five goals for the week while senior Francisco Valles (three points on two goals) and freshman Sask Byerly also scored for the Beavers.

Women's Volleyball (0-10)
The volleyball squad had two of its best matches of the season last week, despite the two losses. The Beavers notch a season-high 17 kills on Wednesday against Whittier and tied their previous season-best with 15 kills on Saturday against Occidental. The team also continues to improve on defense, recording a season-high 18 digs against Occidental. Sophomore Karen Lam tallied team highs of nine kills and eight digs in the two matches. Sophomore Dana Vukajlovich set a season-high with 12 assists in each match last week.

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The Ticket Stub

By Justin Ho

The Minus Man — B-rated R for portrayal of an unsympathetic killer, a druggie doing her druggie thing, much drinking but no drunken revelry. It’s hardly surprising that a lurking serial killer can take the form of a soccer dad, family man, neighbor next door. Objectively speaking, chronically nice people are sometimes the least decipherable, and with few exceptions, news reporters uncover a naive community accompanying the exhaustion of bodies from a backyard belonging to someone they always thought of as a trusting neighbor. My surprise is that gentle minions still concede that “That serial killer was a nice guy” however warped their definition may be in the company of someone as insane and manipulative as the serial killer who manages to blend in so well while undertaking actions which would otherwise place him so far apart. While insincerity may escape the common lot of us, it is something that happily found a residence in the mind of Vann Siegert (Owen Wilson). Speaking with an unfeigned cluelessness which suggests ignorance, the title character nevertheless eludes authorities as he hops, ostensibly aimlessly from nameless small town to nameless small town. His ability to stay unknown to the law allows for a psychoanalysis rather than a fugitive altering. Nothing as he arrives except for performing a few homicides camouflaged as mysterious disappearances, food poisoning, or drug overdoses, he defines the emotional emptiness that attracts dysfunctional people to craft him into the missing piece of their fractured lives. And surprisingly enough, places in the middle of nowhere have an inordinate share of those. Alas, there are those unfortunate enough to share his nothingness, and they lack the few minutes to meet Vann not as a complete stranger but someone whom they would blindly characterize him as a quiet, polite wallflower no one would suspect of wrong-doing. A swift sip of poison-spiked amaretto quenches the delusions Vann’s public hold.

As the anti-hero of the film, there is some commiseration for Vann’s wretched misguidance. His motives lack the malice that even normal people are prone to display. Specifically, Siegert targets others who have no purpose, most evidently those who drown their sorrows and indecision in liquor, making his MO very effective and leaible to other people’s desires as well. Perhaps there is something missing in his life, though the affection of the nice girl is certainly inadequate. Instead, Siegert has an encounter with a working lady who teaches self-immolation and paints disturbing pictures, literally. Out of respect for her cause, which would make her not a zero and not worthy of the amaretto, he leaves her, and likewise a chance to starting a relationship with someone depressed as well. Thus the movies doesn’t seek to explain the basis of his motives, only that he draws others’ moments toward him. There is, however, a constant awareness that he is doing something wrong, or at least something deserving of the bad attention of the FBI. Stalked by two officers inside his mind who seem to be closing in, the movie suggest that not even serial killers are safe. Plagued by dreams in which the officers turn progressively more violent, he is interrogated about his system of murdering, and frequently beaten for failing to do so. Siegert’s imagined torments causes him to start straying from his self-defined rules of homicidal conduct. First, he allows himself to subdue a friend; later his pacific means of murder turn violently awful though he eventually ceases and cowers in fetal disbelief; and he succeeds in offing a guy who eats dinner alone in a diner, though potentially not a momentum-lacker. The finale confirms his paranoia, and despite the threat that he poses, there is almost a desire for him to escape his second encounter with an equally creepy police officer; besides, he is a serial killer.

Perhaps the movie fails to foster hatred for one who destroys the innocent in this era of desensitization or succeeds in eliciting sympathy for a normal guy who would otherwise represent the underdog, loner guy in other movies. But two weeks afterward, my only real impression remains “That weird guy was a serial killer.”

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Contact: amvp2000@hotmail.com AM Venture Partners
BY ADAM VILLANI

Sensation
If you're keeping up with the news, you should have heard about this art exhibit in Brooklyn that's caused a lot of controversy, most notably from New York mayor Rudy Giuliani. A lot has been written elsewhere, so I just wanted to say a couple of things about it. First of all, Giuliani and the press are greatly exaggerating when they say that Chris Ofili's Holy Virgin Mary painting (which is viewable at www.davidbowie.com) has feces "thrown" onto it. The elephant dung in question is actually one clump placed quite carefully, as if it were a brooch. Moreover, Ofili, who says he was inspired by a trip to his parents' native Africa, incorporates elephant dung into most of his paintings these days, including portraits of Diana Ross and Muhammad Ali. Anybody with half a brain should know that the public isn't going to react well to poop, but Giuliani's description of the painting is a great distortion. I don't really know what Ofili was going for, but it's obviously more complex than protesters have made it out to be.

Behind the scenes, though, it's quite interesting to note that the Brooklyn Museum of Art knew very well what it was getting into with this show; well-publicized ads warned that the show may cause shock or vomiting, and that those suffering from heart palpitations should consult a doctor before attending. Furthermore, the exhibit was curated by the man who owns the works, Charles Saatchi. Saatchi is the wealthy advertising guru and contemporary art collector who helped put Margaret Thatcher in power and has a reputation for doing anything he can for stirring up interest in artists whose works he happens to own. Curiously enough, Sensation is sponsored mainly by Christie's, the auction house that has received big commissions for selling pieces from many of the featured artists. In other words, the real obscenity is that a public museum is spending its tax money to pump up the value of Charles Saatchi's private collection, rather than to provide the public with a meaningful art exhibition.

Romance
More explicit than even Nagisa Oshima's In the Realm of the Senses but a far inferior film, Catherine Breillat's Romance is a positively dreadful affair that, if it had been directed by a man, would be branded as terribly misogynistic. Caroline Ducey's Marie, our "heroine," has masochistic sex with a lot of rotten men while maintaining a tedious and banal pseudo-philosophical voiceover filled with both self-hatred and man-hatred. Marie, obviously a surrogate for the director, seems to think that her hell-hole of an emotional state should be a liberating goal for all women. Why can't any one make an erotic film that has anything positive to say about sexuality?

Caligula
This absolutely wretched film was Penthouse publisher Bob Guccione's big-budget attempt to give porn movies legitimacy by attaching some big name actors (Malcolm McDowell, Helen Miren, John Gielgud, and Peter O'Toole) to a historical subject, namely the short first-century reign of the debauched, insane Roman emperor of the title. The problem is that Guccione had no idea how to make a quality film and decided to make up for it by showing you some of the vilest, most revolting behavior ever shown in a theatre. The result was a 2 1/2-hour bore with lousy photography, editing, and direction that subjects the audience to decapitations, torture, mutilation, evisceration, incest, and anal fisting, not to mention a few sub-par orgy scenes. Occasionally we can see shades of Gore Vidal's original script, which may have had potential, but Guccione completely gutted it and instead turned it into the awful mess we see on screen. Guccione still considers this a dreck masterpiece, but I consider it the worst movie I've ever seen.

American Beauty
This is a very good movie, but I don't think it lives up to the hype people have been building around it as the best picture of the year. Writer Alan Ball's and director Sam Mendes' theatrical backdrops show through a little too much; the movie seems a bit more deliberate, exaggerated, and self-confident than necessary. I would have preferred something a bit more naturalistic. Nevertheless Kevin Spacey is exceptionally good as an average salaryman suddenly trying to shed as much responsibility as he can. The rest of the cast is also top-notch, with newcomer Wes Bentley very moving as the creepy kid next door. If not for all the hype, I'd be doing nothing but singing the praises of this movie's fine story, acting, and technical qualities, but I just don't think it's quite as good as the buzz around town might have you believe.

Three Kings
More a politically-charged action movie than a war movie, Three Kings is not only good at the things we expect Hollywood to be good at—action, humor, and sentimentality—but is also good at the things Hollywood's been pretty lax in lately—being thoughtful, provocative, having characters you care about, and feeling politically relevant. George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, Ice Cube, and videodi-rector Spike Jonze play four G.I.s who go on an unauthorized mission into Iraq just after the end of the Gulf War. They get in over their heads when they find an anarchic, bewildering country with a populace eager to rise up against Saddam's army but left to hang out to dry by George Bush. Writedirector David O. Russell (Spanking the Monkey, Flirting with Disaster) deftly blends tense action scenes with flip humor and Mark Wahlberg, surprisingly, turns his standard frat-boy American into the strongest performance in the movie. The brief moments of violence are shocking and explicit, but it's in the service of a movie with a real conscience.
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Bringing technology to the edge

Raytheon
Frosh and Food

by Ian Swett

Thanks to your survey responses, there are some improvements to the menu this year. The menu has been revamped to take into account the most loved and hated entrees, how many people eat different meats, and what ethnic cuisine people prefer. Since a large number of people don’t eat pork or lamb, those meats will come up less often, though still present. We’ve reduced the variations on the Beef Stroganoff, and replaced them with two entreé salads. As for style of food, people generally agreed that there was a little too much Mexican food on the menu, and that Middle Eastern was a big loser. For those who enjoy the Vegan bar, there is less tofu and more complete protein in the form of lentils and beans. In hopes of providing a higher quality dessert, there will be premium scooped ice cream Monday thru Thursday, and Novelities on Friday. Also in response to survey comments, the coffeehouse is undergoing an expansion and major overhaul of the look, music, and menu.

Congratulations to the Caltech Dining Services Board Program, which won 3rd place in the nation among all Colleges and Universities of Medium size. Hopefully the improvements to the menu will allow CDS to further improve this year.

Contact Ian Swett
swett@its.caltech.edu
396-6917 MSC 912

The California Tech
October 8, 1999
October 8, 1999

Comics

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

I WHAT ARE YOU READING?

WHY NOT JOIN THE CLUB?

I WHAT ARE YOU READING?

WHY NOT JOIN THE CLUB?

AND THEN HE SAW...

I WHAT ARE YOU READING?

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Dean+ 11
October 8, 1999

Dean's Corner
Son of Peleus and Thetis

by Jean-Paul Revel

This is about Achilles, he of the famous heel and how what happened to him haunts everybody that humans do. There can be fatal flaws in the most carefully laid plans. You must have heard that a Mars Orbiter was lost a couple of weeks ago... because the engineers, without realizing it, were not all using metric units? And remember the Hubble Telescope near-fiasco? Back to Achilles' story. Thetis, his mother, was a Goddess, a Goddess of the sea no less, and apparently also somewhat of a scatter brain. Still, having a Goddess as mother should have given the fellow a leg up and she did, after a fashion. You see, Achilles' daddy was a mere mortal. Because of this mixed heritage Thetis thought it prudent to take appropriate steps to insure her son's immortal- ity. That was done by dipping Achilles in the river Styx, which separates the world of the living and that of the dead. Grabbing her baby by one leg agreed to live by. It is good to believe that in fact everyone of us will always adhere to this code, but you know that this is hubris, a very misplaced pride. Sadly, some of us will not be able to live up to this demanding standard. If not because of a willing breach of the covenant, then because of a misunderstanding, or of a different interpretation of what constitutes "taking advantage of other Caltechers". Application of the Honor Code to our daily lives requires constant vigilance and thought. One of the most difficult problems is what to do when one observes someone behaving in an inappropriate way, breaking the Code. No one feels good about having to tell on a friend, a neighbor, a member of the same alley or Hovse. It is indeed a hard problem, which goes beyond the confines of college, and carries on into the world in which you'll live your adult lives. It is easy to look down at traitors, yet wise to recollect that one person's double-crosser is likely another's hero. A less extreme case is the "us" against "them" syndrome. Whoever is involved when something inappropriate goes on, a complaint must be lodged before anyone can tell that there is a wrong to be redressed. The problem is what to do if upholding the code means denouncing friends and associates.

Last week the TV program "60 Minutes" reported on the thin blue line in Police Departments, an unsaid rule which prevents officers to tell about the misdeeds of others in the force. A couple of officers had crossed the line, one in NYC and the other from Riverside, were interviewed. After much soul searching both had reported abuses committed by their colleagues. A direct consequence of this courageous (that's what I call it) behavior was that they were made to feel so uncomfortable and felt themselves in so much in danger, that they left the force, one of them after many years of service.

Our honor code can be hampered by a similar problem. Not reporting an infraction of the code that you have been aware of is a violation of the code. After all you are condoning an activity harmful to members of the community, so that even if you are not actively participating, you nevertheless become an accomplice. On the other hand, we are all naturally reluctant to turn in friends or colleagues. There are no hard and fast rules which can guide us in this dilemma. To speak up or not to has to be a decision arrived at between you and yourself. One way to mitigate the distress one feels might be to encourage "offenders" to turn themselves in. Explain to them how their actions are jeopardizing us all. For yourself reflect on the consequences of all of us keeping silent. Is that not what we reproach the ruthless and evil soldiers of the other side? Surely remaining silent, being passive, letting the Honor Code be violated will lead to the downfall of this hallowed tradition as surely as violating it actively...

Oh Thetis, what have you wrought? Why did you not think of the consequences of your incomplete dunking? Come to think of it, Techers, you better take care of your incompletees (and Es too) in time, you heart? It is another one of your vulnerable spots. For we poor mortals certainly have even more vulnerable spots, than the son of Thetis and Peleus.

A bientot!

Jean-Paul Revel
Dean of Students

Annoying advertising creeps up

by Dan Liebling

Even though I live off campus, I occasionally have the pleasure of using one of my house restrooms. Unfortunately, any peace that I might have found was instantly destroyed when I, after entering a stall, found a gaudy yellow flyer glaring back at me. Now, ordinarily it wouldn't upset me to see, say, a flyer for the Glee Club posted on the rear of the stall — I mean, how many places can you stick a flyer and not assured that Techers will read it? But this one bewildged me for several reasons. Allow me to elaborate.

"Go to lecture and get paid!" said the flyer. Well, that sounds like a great deal until you realize that it's $7/hr, and damn, I might as well do work study if I'm actually going to get out of bed and do something for pay. Versity.com, said the flyer, was my one-stop place for all my college needs — be they lecture notes, textbooks, etc. Versity.com is "dedicated to providing students with the tools they need to enrich their academic experiences." I managed to get along just fine with a TeX viewer and Acrobat reader. (On the otherhand, maybe Tech is just a technically-with-it school). But I digress. The point of my rage was simply commercialism of the college campus, from pushing mastercards in front of Winnett (which I don't really mind) to get rich quick schemes on the Lloyd bulletin board, to the ultimate in your-face advertising, placing cheaply made flyers on the back of stall doors.

It's corporate coercion of the student body. At some point we need to question our principles. Even I was offered such a job by varsitybooks.com (who actually sold Tommy I more than the bookstore when I visited their site). They called me one day I had just posted my resume on headhunter.net. I was excited; after all, varsitybooks.com was a new internet company and that's my bag. But I gave up all hopes of a cool job offer when they asked me to go to class 10 minutes early and write their URL on the chalkboards of our lecture halls. Oh, they'd pay me — starting at about $10 per week. But I decided, acting on principle, that although my bank balance was red, I'd rather forgo a little green to preserve the sanctity of Orange.

And that, my fellow students, is what I ask of you.
The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group: Looking for a safe and supportive place to discuss issues such as coming out, being out, dealing with family, coping with a homophobic culture, and being GLB at Caltech? We invite you to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 8:15 p.m. until 10:15 p.m. in the Health Center lounge. This is a confidential meeting, a chance to find anything about a person's sexual orientation -- only that she is willing to be supportive in this setting. The group usually discusses a particularly relevant topic and then moves on to the general discussion. Refreshments are served. For more information, call x3831.

The California College Republics are currently expanding across campuses in Los Angeles County. It is a non-profit organization that works to get Republican candidates elected, while focusing on issues and putting on events that are of interest to college students. If you would like to start a chapter at Caltech in time for the 2000 election, email Amanda Gregory, Southern Vice Chair California College Republicans, at agregory@usc.edu, or call her at (562) 425-8509.

Volunteer record label interest open: Learn retail - Radio - press - clubs - Internet. Looking for a self starter with motivation to learn the business. Hours flexible, can work from home. Contact us at 626-583-4717 or email crichter@netcom.com.

The Dean of Students Office needs tutors in all areas -- help is especially needed with the main Institute requirements: e.g., MA1, MA2, PH1, PH2, CH1, etc. The pay is $8.00 per hour. If you are an upperclassman and would like to be a Dean's tutor, please stop by the Dean's Office to see Sandra located in 102 Parsons-Gates.

Case Practice Group for people interested in practicing Business Cases and in pursing Management Consulting, meet on Wednesday Nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Sherman Fairchild Library For those who wish to join this group, send e-mail to: Majorderman@et.caltech.edu with "subscribe cpg" in the body of the message. Also check out our website: http://www.its.caltech.edu/~mpg

The Vice President for Student Affairs Office is looking for readers to assist a graduate student starting immediately. Computer Science or Engineering majors are preferred. A basic understanding of the subject matter, flexibility, and good communication skills are necessary. Hourly rate paid. Please call or e-mail Jerri Greene, x6321 jerrii@caltech.edu.

Caltech Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences presents Dr. Rebecca S. Eisenberg, Robert & Barbara Luciano Professor of Law, University of Michigan and Visiting Professor of Law, Science, and Technology Stanford Law School. Competition Between Public and Private Sector in Global Regimes. 5410 Baxter Building, Fri., Oct, at 4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. For information, contact Marion Lawrence at (626) 395-4078 or marinow@hss.caltech.edu. Our website: http://www.hss.caltech.edu/SES/SEPH.

Fall Fellowship Meeting: Science/Engineering fellowships such as the Hertz, NSF- and P.I.L. and the (year long internship in Asia) and Churchill (year at Churchill College Cambridge University) will be discussed. Graduate students who have won fellowships such as the NSF will provide their insights on writing a winning proposal and essays. Friday, Oct. 15 at 12 noon in Winnett Club Room. We will be serving lunch so please RSVP so that we can plan food properly: fellowships@caltech.edu by Thursday October 14. If you have questions or want to talk to the Fund Committee, contact SRA 25 Fellowships and Study Aboard.

Join the Averg Crew, Entrepreneur Club and Women's Center for the first 1999-2000 Averg House Entrepreneur in Residence Program on Wed., Oct. 13. The speaker for the evening will be Louenne Dyer, Co-founder of Cogit Corporation and Alumna Trustee. The talk will commence at 5 p.m. in the Averg House Library with the speaker joining the Averg Community for dinner afterward. Dyer will be available for discussion at a dessert reception at 7 p.m. in the Library. All are welcome!

The alternative world music group Vas will perform Thu., Oct. 14, 8:00 p.m. at the Skibbal Cultural Center. To purchase advance tickets call Tickets.L.A. at 323-655-8857. Tickets are $15 (General), $12 (Skibbal members) and $10 (Students, with valid ID). Contact Joana Fish, 310-440-4578, fish@skibbal.com.

The Skibbal Cultural Center presents a screening of The Goodbye Girl (1977, 110 min). Tue., Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. at the Skibbal Cultural Center - 270 N. Sepulveda Blvd., for tickets call Tickets.L.A. 323-655-8857. Contact Joana Fish 310-440-4578.

Indian and South Asian Cultural Show, Sunday, October 10th at 5 p.m. in Baxter Lecture Hall. The show will include skits, dances, fashion show, instrumental music, literature recitals, and songs, performed by members of the Caltech community.

The California Tech colloquium on January 20, 1999, at the Disneyland Convention Center in Anaheim, California. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. For further information you may contact: Rick Carey, MSC scholarship office, 39-500, or Jennifer, E.Electronics Technologies, Marina del Rey Facility, 12964 Panama Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066-6534. Entries must be submitted by November 26, 1999.

Students and faculty are invited to submit proposals to the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) by December 15 to fund student projects and faculty courses and programs that enable students to pursue the development of ideas and steps leading to commercialization of their innovations. Two types of NCIIA grants are offered: Advance grants of up to $20,000 to student innovators provide support for the development of new products and technologies with commercial potential and Course and program development grants of up to $50,000 to faculty to provide support for the creation and operation of classes and programs. Please contact the NCIIA to obtain additional information at www.ncii.a.org or by phoning Phil Weilstein, NCIIA Director, at 413-587-2172.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact mints@tech.caltech.edu or mail your announcement to Caltech Minto 40-58 Atm. Minto Submissions should be brief and concise. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Deadline is noon Wednesday. Unless specified, all mints will run for two weeks.