Baltimore opens Watson lectures

BY Faith Fulton

Dr. David Baltimore, gave an intriguing lecture, "Cell Life and Cell Death" Wednesday as part of the Watson lecture series. Baltimore delved into the topic of cell death, or "apoptosis", pointing out the four main roles that it handles in cell life: sculpting the body, deleting structures, keeping a balance of cells and perhaps most importantly, eliminating dangerous or injured cells.

To illustrate the job apoptosis does in sculpting the body, Baltimore showed a slide of a mouse's paw. The mouse's critical gene needed for cell death had been mutated and apoptosis did not occur. The mouse's paw was webbed like a duck.

Baltimore gave the example of tadpoles losing their tails for cell death's role in deleting structures.

The example of apoptosis maintaining a balance of cells was more gruesome. A picture of a mouse whose gene for cell death had been mutated showed the brain swollen to twice its normal size, popping out of the mouse's skull. Baltimore called the picture "gory, but I must say, gorgeous".

A quick video of the death of human lung cells highlighted the importance of apoptosis eliminating dangerous (i.e. cancer) cells. The cells first start to bubble around the edges and then disintegrate, much like alkali-seltzer. The cell death occurred because of TNF. No, not TFM, but TNF — tumor necrosis factor, a protein that kills cancer cells by activating the NF-kB system.

Baltimore ended the lecture with a quick question and answer session. The next Watson lecture will be "The Search for Extraterrestrial Life: Lessons from Earth" by Dr. Ken Nealson on October 21.

Convenience Store Comes to Chandler

BY TECH STAFF

Overpriced, understocked, and understaffed; have been the general complaints made by some students about the convenience store since its opening three weeks ago in what was formerly the Red Door Cafe. It is now being managed by its supervisor, Gina Armas, the former manager of the Coffeehouse.

Concerns about the prices of the products being sold are being addressed. Initially, all prices were established by what Core Mart, the store's vendor, had provided for recommended resale prices. Prices for some of the more popular goods have already been adjusted, although further adjustments will likely be done on a piecemeal basis.

It is not known what taxes must be paid by students in on-campus stores of this nature. Depending on the information he brings back, students may no longer be taxed.

Pasadena Political Arena

BY Toby Bartels

In addition to the general election for state and federal offices, November 3 will also see five Pasadena City ballot measures, which, if passed, would amend the Pasadena City Charter. By the time this paper sees press, it will be too late to register to vote in California, or, if you are already registered, to change your address to Pasadena. Nevertheless, if you've taken care of this beforehand, you can vote on these measures November 3, from 7 am to 8 pm.

Two issues on the Pasadena City ballot, measures M and N, concern the city-wide election of Pasadena Mayors. Two other measures O and P, offer competing visions of the compensation plan for members of the City Council (Council members). The last, measure Q, concerns the City's water and power utilities. Measures M, N, and P are a result of the Citizens Charter Reform Task Force (CCRTF), an ad hoc committee created by the City Council last year to recommend amendments to the City Charter. The complete text of the ballot measures, along with allegedly impartial analyses by the City Attorney and arguments one way or another submitted by the CCRTF and other people,
Over forty students eager to earn their plot of rocky red earth estate met last Friday to found the Mars Society of Caltech/JPL (www.cco.caltech.edu/~mars). An offshoot of the national Mars Society (www.marsociety.org), the new organization will use scientific research, political pressure, and public outreach to put people - maybe even you - on Mars under the shortest timeline possible.

"People need to understand just how close Mars is to Earth, not only in the similarity of the two worlds, but also in our technological ability to get there. Connecting the broad public support for reaching Mars with the realization that it's simple and inexpensive to achieve is one of our main tasks," explained Caltech freshman Derek Shannon, who opened the meeting with a presentation on how we can send humans to Mars without tripling the NASA budget. Shannon showed how a plan developed by aerospace engineer and Mars Society national founder Robert Zubrin to use Martian carbon dioxide as a resource would reduce the cost of a Mars mission from a ludicrous $450 billion to a politically reasonable $55 billion.

But more important than talking was the chance for new members to become actively involved in the race toward the Red Planet. According to Caltech freshman Serena Eley, "It's going to take a lot of people working together on a lot of diverse issues to get us to Mars. Everyone at the first meeting had a lot of enthusiasm for both the political and scientific challenges." The Caltech/JPL Mars Society is divided into task forces: one intended to organize political and public support for Mars exploration, and the other to work out technical issues.

The technical task force will go beyond increasing awareness to actively persuading politicians to jump on the Mars bandwagon, while using petitions and initiatives to reflect the tremendous public support for Mars. Also on the agenda will be expansion of NASA's robotic Mars missions, funding (at the level of $130 million per year) for NASA's Human Exploration and Development of Space Organization, and dismantlement of the legislative block against using Space Shuttle and International Space Station money for experiments oriented toward interplanetary human flight.

The technical task force will work in tandem with the Mars-related science. Said Caltech sophomore Chris Hirata, who presented on improved human-to-Mars trajectories at the Mars Society's national founding convention in August, "This doesn't require millions of dollars. For example, a re-analysis of existing data on space radiation could contribute significantly to a Mars program at low cost. And

PLEASE SEE MARS ON PAGE 5
On Voting

I often wonder why "political pundits" even exist — why do we need to pay people to somberly declare winners and losers, to ruminate about what is going on in the President's head? Most of the time, their predictions are wrong, yet they just keep chugging along.

But this time, they have something interesting to say about voter turnout. As we learned with the Avery House election re-vote last year, who votes determines who wins.

Duh. And this year, without any inflammatory propositions or rhyming presidential vote in the Pasadena area are many are going to vote.

Representative, Republican James Gingrich to toller, but Rogan, lacking any substantial Democratic opposition in Barry Gordon and possessing a reasonable outlook, could actually be the best candidate for Pasadena. Harbor no hopes for a liberal representative from this prosperous sector of suburbia.

The real contest this year, to be decided partly by who turns out to vote, is the California Senate seat up for grabs. Barbara Boxer has had her six years in Washington; it's time to ask if she's doing a good job. Her opponent is laid back Matt Fong — I feel I must disclose that his mother, March Fong Yu (former Secretary of State under Democratic governor George Deukmejian) has the maiden name Gong, and that she is my father's third cousin. Although I find the thought of a Chinese American, and his ideals are those of most Chinese-Americans, who tend to be conserva-

But let's not deceive ourselves into thinking that when the CALFED process continues, we will have consensus. What does that mean? Barbara Boxer is also a political, a passionate one who lives up to her name and San Francisco roots. A woman who isn't afraid to fight, and to speak her piece. She is a wholehearted supporter of environmental laws, a woman's right to choose, gun regulation, and environmental laws — though she praised California's purchase of the Headwaters land, several hundred thousand discontinuous acres of forest and nature that has little hope of surviving as a habitat in its isolated clumps and strings. She supports renewable business such as technical, biotech, and tourism trades in addition to goods production, in contrast to the traditional agriculture-and-oil strength of Matt Fong. She is involved in that so-called "Patients' Bill of Rights," the debate to clarify HMO regulation. She even sponsored bill S. 902 — "The Prestate Testing Full Information Act." She talks about education based around computers, and about "keeping Social Security solvent." And, she censured Bill Clinton about Monica before it got fashionable on the Hill. She's aggressive, much more so than Fong, attacking him and attacking Republicans even as he declares his respect for her and her record. She's an attack dog liberal idealist in the old style, trying to push through what she thinks is right but maybe less effective-

That's all.

Cynthia Gong
Senior

The California Tech

Letters to the Editor

We're looking for a few good people to help out as copy editors, writers, layout staff, ad layout staff, office managers, photographers, and people to develop film.

Undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and staff are invited to contribute. The submission deadline for announcements is Monday at noon.

Articles are due Wednesday at 6:00 pm.

The California Tech is published on a weekly basis by members of the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology.

October 9, 1998

October 23
Rosencreanz & Guildenstern Are Dead

Oct. 30
The Graduate

Nov. 6
The X-Files

Nov. 7
The Madness of King George (NAIR Movie - Saturday showing)

Nov. 13
Good Will Hunting

Nov. 20
Dangerous Liaisons

Dec. 4
THX 1138

Visits http://www.its.caltech.edu for updates and other good stuff.

ESCUIT Movies...

The film noir classic

CHINATOWN

7:30 & 10:00 PM
Baxter Lecture Hall

$2.00 ASCIT Members
$2.50 All Others

ASCIT Movies Term Schedule

All films shown at 7:30 & 10:00 PM, Friday nights in Baxter Lecture Hall. Admission is $2.00 for undergraduates, $2.50 for all others.

ASCIT Movies...
THE OUTSIDE WORLD

by Cheryl Forrest

WASHINGTON D.C.: The House of Representatives launched the third presidential impeachment inquiry in U.S. history on Thursday. 31 Democrats crossed party lines in a final vote of 256 to 178 in favor of starting an unrestricted probe. If articles of impeachment against Clinton are approved by the Judiciary Committee and then the full house, a trial will be held by the Senate. A two-thirds vote of members of the Senate is necessary in order to remove Clinton from office.

BELGRADE: U.S. Special envoy Richard Holbrooke is flying back to Belgrade Friday in a final attempt to persuade Yugoslav President Milosevic to withdraw his troops from Kosovo. NATO has threatened to launch air strikes if Milosevic doesn't yield to demands for refugees to return. Meanwhile, nonessential embassy personnel and their dependents are being evacuated from Yugoslavia.

ISSUES

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi issued his country's strongest apology to date to the South Korean people for 35 years of brutal colonial rule on Thursday. In a joint declaration made by Obuchi and the South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, Obuchi expressed "deep remorse and extended a heartfelt apology to the people of South Korea, having humbly accepted the historical fact that Japan inflicted heavy damage and pain on the people of South Korea through its colonial rule."

Herbron: A Palestinian protester was killed and a news photographer seriously wounded on Thursday during a clash between stone throwers and Israeli troops. The shooting started when Palestinian youths threw stones at Israeli soldiers across Herbron's divide after a general strike was declared.

WASHINGTON D.C.: In meetings this past weekend, Japan's top financial officials told American Treasury and Federal Reserve officials that their country's banking system is in desperate need of capital, with the top nineteen banks in more trouble than has previously been admitted. Given the current international monetary rules, Japan, which has the world's second-largest economy, might be banned from operating internationally "if the rules were vigorously pursued," according to a top-ranking Japanese official.

COUNCILMEN OF THE CITY OF PASADENA

CONVENIENCE...

The stocking situation is represented by the six pages of suggestions for new items posted on the wall beside the cash register.

Some of these were made before the store was fully stocked, and others have already been considered and enacted. The shelves of candy have been condensed to make room for health and beauty supplies. Requests for fresh fruit have been answered.

Perhaps the greater consequence to Caltech students are the rolls of duct tape that the store now sells. However, those who desire the store to sell some goods will be disappointed. The chances of the convenience store selling liquor or cigarettes are rather poor. Also, the store has been closed because of the difficulties involved in obtaining a license to sell such products, there is still the consideration of underage drinking.

Even more mundane products like Pepsi and Snapple beverages will probably not be made available if this would result in a violation of the Dining Service's contract with Coca Cola.

The problems customers may have encountered with the staff should be resolved with time. The student volunteers received minimal training on the operation of the store's computer system prior to the opening of the store.

A permanent manager is to be hired soon to help relieve some of the organizational difficulties that the store has been having, problems which the customers have not failed to note.

Suggestion for new goods, and the reasons for them, can be made by writing to Gina Armas at gina@cco.

MARS...

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Portions of a new branch of human civilization. Will robotic and human exploration of Mars in the next few decades pave the way for colonists? Only time will tell! Your fellow Teochers in the Mars Society of Caltech/JPL are working to improve the odds. For questions, e-mail mars@cco.caltech.edu.

NEWS

More Election Stuff...

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I think that would start the year off with a review of the major local bookstores, for the benefit of those of you who have just arrived or have been here for their first years and are just now contemplating going off campus. Included here are only the most prominent purveyors of the written word; I will write another column on local used and specialty bookstores at some point in the indeterminate future.

*Vroman's* My personal favorite, Vroman's manages to be at the same time large and cozy, with ample free parking. It is located in a two-story building next to Target on Colorado. Most of the books are on the first floor, with the second floor devoted to children's books, toys, cards and gifts. Their selection of most genres is excellent, though they seem to have for some reason eliminated their humor section. Like most large stores, they tend to specialize in terrible books, but a little hunting can turn up more interesting fare. Their杀菌 section in particular is good, heavy on the coffee-table books but also housing some very decent literature. It has a nice atmosphere too, the place really feels like a bookstore.

*Borders* This newly-convenient chain was probably the last nail in the coffin of poor Crown, for a long time the only book store in quick walking distance. I can't say that we've lost much in the exchange. Crown seemed to specialize in terrible books, poor selection and an occasionally dirty environment. It was the best place around for buying puzzles though. Borders shares with it none of these traits. Another two-story book store/gift store/coffee shop with lots of space, and for good measure, Borders is almost screamingly perfect. Actually, that kind of grates.

*The Red Door* The Red Door has a chocolate mousse cake, which covered it. Lexi did however, let the truth be told. The Brownie Sundae is the only one so far that could ever touch their ice cream. The Red Door is a very trendy place. It shares with it none of these traits. Another two-story bookstore, with the second floor devoted to music and video sections thrown in for good measure. Borders seems unnatural for a bookstore with chairs that they keep for their browsers. There is a broad range of topics and genres represented but less depth in most than is found in either of the above. They do manage to avoid some of the layout problems of Borders, with lower lights, higher ceilings, and the occasional cranny to give the place a cozier feel. But since the place and its adjoining Starbucks are hardly ever empty, the strongest overall impression is of being in a very trendy place.

**Chocolate, Chocolate!**

by Lexi Baugher and Katy Isaacs

Parents never let you have chocolate cake for breakfast. Parents never let you have chocolate cake for dinner. Parents never let you have chocolate cake for breakfast. Parents never let you have chocolate cake for dinner. However, our parents are very far from here, so we've done all three. Now, we bring our chocolate cake findings to you.

Hamburger Hamlet. This place easily made our number one spot for chocolate cake. It was rich and moist and definitely chocolate. Even though Katy didn't think it was on the sugary side, with Lexi saying "I can feel my teeth rot." Kat found the icing tolerable, which usually hates. She was more entertained by the scoops of vanilla ice cream which covered it. Lexi, however, went right for the chocolate. The dessert is so large that even though we split it, there was still a good choice left over by the time we walked out the door. The Brownie Sundae we were able to finish though, this time we had a third person on our team. This treat lived up to the example set by their ultimate chocolate cake.

Borders. We found this lot of fun. Not only can you go to their reading and try any thing from Manga to War and Peace to Cosmo in German, you can do this over a delightful selection of goodies. Their chocolate cake was also very good. Kat found the icing a little sugary, but not overpowering. Katy thought the chocolate came through loud and clear though. Most fun was the thin bar of chocolate on top. In our multiple trips back to finish the leftovers, we also tried the Chocolate Mousse Cake. This is also a very good idea when you're looking for something nice and creamy.

*The Red Door* Café. Surprisingly very good and conveniently close. The Red Door has a chocolate cake just as good as Borders. Their triple chocolate cake was straight chocolate cake here, but what we did try was very good. The tiramisu was described as "the best we've ever had." The triple chocolate cake pleased Lexi.

Kathryn, who suggested the restaurant in the first place, had a raspberry mousse-isshe cake which was nice in a fruity sort of way. It was worth the trip.

*Chocolate Factory* They have a lot of desserts. They have a lot of cheesecake hybrids. Go figure. If you try any of their three chocolate cakes, including the Black-Out Cake and the Chocolate Mousse Cake, expect something large. They're all 5-layer cakes. Lexi said they were quite good and she wished she could come somewhere near finishing one sometime. Fudge fans should try the Flourless Chocolate Torte, which was the size of a normal cheesecake, but too rich to finish. All their cakes, including their cheesecakes, are topped with lots of whipped cream. Lexi found the whipped cream to be the style she liked, definitely not too sweet. Katy thought their cream was too heavy and rather sick tasting though. The cheesecakes were all very good and fun, flavors like apple streusel, chocolate mousse, and heath bar make the cheesecake into an almost different dessert. They do their cheesecake pretty well, but with a name like The Chocolate Factory, you would expect something a little better. Still, we drop by their pretty frequently.

*Starbucks* Katy didn't actually try the chocolate cake at Starbucks because it had nuts all along the side. Lexi did however, and found that while it was passable, it wasn't anything to be impressed by. Lexi often has their Chocolate Mini-Bundt Cake though.

*Pe n'Burger* This is a very home-style cake, no flour in the layers with a thin icing by restaurant standards. We found the cake to be a tad bit on the dry side and the icing to be on the sugary side. Avery Grill. We don't want to talk about this...
How to Register to Vote in Pasadena

**STEP 1:** Become a U.S. citizen.
**STEP 2:** Reach the age of 18.
**STEP 3:** In general, the deadline for registering to vote is 29 days before the election. The next election will be in March.
**STEP 4:** Go to the Post Office in Keith Spalding or any other government building, and pick up an application. Alternatively, call the City Clerk’s Office at (626) 744-4124, and they will mail you one.
**STEP 5:** Fill out the application and mail it in.
**STEP 6:** Don’t forget to vote in March.

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**SENIORS: BRING PENCILS!**

Are you a senior? Do you think you might be? Did you miss the senior meetings this week? Did you not even hear about them? (That would be our fault! All is not lost! We’re meeting again, Tuesday at 10:30 p.m., for those who couldn’t make it to the earlier meetings. We’ll be discussing Dart Day, Commitment Committee, the senior gift, and more. We’ve shared most of the houses senior mailing lists so check your e-mail, for the location, ask a fellow senior, or contact one of the senior class officers. If you can’t make it find us soon to get a commitment speaker survey. Prof. J. Morgan Krouser, Chair of the Commitment Committee would like to have our input by the end of the week.

Autumn Looken (Dansby 50, autumn@uccs)
Erik Streeb (Blackies 00, streeb@icts)
Mike Astile (Ricketts One Huler, astile@uccs)

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**NEWS**

More Elections...

Compiled from Page 2

City of Pasadena currently operates water and power utilities. Measure Q will amend the language “shall” to “may,” so that Pasadena is merely allowed to operate the utilities. The City may instead, however, choose to operate the utilities through an outside agency or even sell them off. There is a line in the measure, however, which stipulates that the City must present any sale to the people for a vote. Of course, Cities have been known to abuse the meaning of the word “sale” — ask this student about the hospitals in his hometown. The measure is designed to provide flexibility for Pasadena Water and Power, which is losing customers to private companies.

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**LETTERS FROM THE IHC**

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 [harsh language omitted by editors] 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. [Harsh language omitted by editors] 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 equal member of a House and that House will treat you as such.

Pretty soon the Houses will start with their annual initiations and traditions, all completely voluntary, of course. 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. If you can and are willing, please participate in these activities. They are a great “bonding” experience.

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 you can do. Just remember, there isn’t an invisible barrier between your House and the other Houses.

Jaidip Singh
IHC Chair
Minutes of the ASCiT BoD Meeting, 5 October 1998

Present: BoD (minus Devi), Kevin Bradley

Meeting called to order at 22:07.

Dealing With Guests
Kevin - Just chillin'.

General Business

Student/Faculty Conference - Seth Blumberg has some of the results of the conference from two years ago. Baldeep wants to turn this data over to Devi to be compiled. Jaideep suggests that we just pay someone. As always, there is a financial issue. Mike suggests that Student Affairs may be willing to pitch in.

Ex-Book - There will be a meeting soon between the editors of the little t, the Technique, and the Caltech Experience Book (www.cco/er-book) to talk about fusing their resources into an online uber-handbook.

Officer Reports
Steve - Waiting patiently for something to do.
Autumn - Andre turned over responsibility for allocating storage space in the Winnett clubrooms to ASCiT. Baldeep turned this job over to Autumn. She reports that right now the closets are full of chairs and no keys are available. The ballroom dance people will be holding stuff their in the meantime.

Hanna - The End-of-Rotation party on Saturday lost out to some other shin-digs on the same evening. Signing power for the Social Director's account needs to be turned over. There was a meeting with folks from the Minority Student Affairs office about ensuring musical diversity at the party.

Jaideep - Rotation is over. Move day is sometime this week. Jaideep doesn't hate all of the frosh. The IHC will be sponsoring a forum soon to discuss the Rotation rules. The Student Advisors thing looks like it might get off the ground.

Jai deep will be meeting with the Deans again soon. If you have any input about the advisors system, you can contact Jen Fong (jenfong@cco), Devi Thota (devi@cco), or Marie Fox (fox@cco).

Rob - ASCiT will soon have documents attesting to the fact of our non-taxability. Our finances are being reorganized under Caltech. We will be able to charge expenses to a Caltech account that works sort of like a grant.

This system will be more convenient, have better accounting, and be covered by Caltech's internal auditing office. The taxes may or may not have been filed (probably yes). Rob is also looking into some kind of Visa thing.

Mike - An updated roster will be out soon. The Olive Walk kiosk is in need of some help. Meetings this term will be Monday at 22:00 in SAC 33.

Alan - A summary of the issues raised in the 3rd term BoC talks will be published in the Tech. All went well at frosh camp. A bylaw amendment proposal will be coming out of the BoC after their open business meeting this term.

Baldeep - Two surveys were found in the office. One of them is for the Coffeehouse, but it has been outdated by recent developments. Another more general survey should work its way into student hands sometime somehow.

Meeting adjourned at 22:43.

Mike D. Astle
ASCI T Secretary

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Welcome back... now go away!

Welcome to "Burger Continental Welcomes All Cal Tech Students"

**ON ALL LUNCHES AND DINNER S!**

Enjoy Burgers, Salads, Steaks, Kebabs, Pizzas, Falafels, Shaourma, Chicken and Beef Specials, and all kinds of Beverages.

535 So. Lake Ave., Pasadena
1/2 Mile South of 210 Fwy. on Lake Exit (Corner of California and Lake)

626-792-6634

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Steve - Waiting patiently for something to do.
Autumn - Andre turned over responsibility for allocating storage space in the Winnett clubrooms to ASCiT. Baldeep turned this job over to Autumn. She reports that right now the closets are full of chairs and no keys are available. The ballroom dance people will be holding stuff their in the meantime.

Hanna - The End-of-Rotation party on Saturday lost out to some other shin-digs on the same evening. Signing power for the Social Director's account needs to be turned over. There was a meeting with folks from the Minority Student Affairs office about ensuring musical diversity at the party.

Jaideep - Rotation is over. Move day is sometime this week. Jaideep doesn't hate all of the frosh. The IHC will be sponsoring a forum soon to discuss the Rotation rules. The Student Advisors thing looks like it might get off the ground.

Jai deep will be meeting with the Deans again soon. If you have any input about the advisors system, you can contact Jen Fong (jenfong@cco), Devi Thota (devi@cco), or Marie Fox (fox@cco).

Rob - ASCiT will soon have documents attesting to the fact of our non-taxability. Our finances are being reorganized under Caltech. We will be able to charge expenses to a Caltech account that works sort of like a grant.

This system will be more convenient, have better accounting, and be covered by Caltech's internal auditing office. The taxes may or may not have been filed (probably yes). Rob is also looking into some kind of Visa thing.

Mike - An updated roster will be out soon. The Olive Walk kiosk is in need of some help. Meetings this term will be Monday at 22:00 in SAC 33.

Alan - A summary of the issues raised in the 3rd term BoC talks will be published in the Tech. All went well at frosh camp. A bylaw amendment proposal will be coming out of the BoC after their open business meeting this term.

Baldeep - Two surveys were found in the office. One of them is for the Coffeehouse, but it has been outdated by recent developments. Another more general survey should work its way into student hands sometime somehow.

Meeting adjourned at 22:43.

Mike D. Astle
ASCI T Secretary

---

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---
This is the eighthieth anniversary year of Richard Feynman’s birth. Do you know, I was recently asked by a friend, what led him to come to Caltech? Do you know it is because people at Caltech are not afraid to ask dumb questions?

Nowhere else can you admit ignorance and look for answers, without fear of being ridiculed. Well, I confessed, I did not know that, and since my friend did not recollect where she had seen or heard about it, I decided to do a little research on the matter. The trouble was, when I got around to it, I was at home, and that limited my original search of Feynman sayings to his book Surely you are joking.

The index had no obvious entry referring to Feynman’s motives in coming here, but the word “Caltech” was used many times on pp. 211-213. There I found the chapter “An offer you must refuse” which describes how he decided between Cornell and Caltech. The reasons given for his choice were, first, he was tired of winter and having to put chains on his car, second, he was touched by his host, Caltech Physicist Robert Bacher, who thoughtfully loaned him a car, thus giving him easy access to Hollywood and the Sunset Strip; and, third, Caltech let him start off with a Sabbatical year (which he had earned at Cornell), so he could go and teach in Brazil, an experience he looked forward to, having greatly enjoyed a previous trip there.

Once at Caltech, however, and having experienced smog (it was much worse than now, in those days) he decided that winter was not so bad after all and made ready to return to lhaca. In the end, though, being able to talk to people not in his field, like astronomers and biologists on our small campus, is apparently what got him to stay for good.

The only part of the book which even obliquely seemed to have to do with not being afraid to ask dumb questions was his retelling of how he had to interpret a symbol on the blueprint of a Uranium enrichment plan he was reviewing with some of the designers. He was not sure if the symbol represented a valve, or a window, although that would have placed windows in peculiar locations in the diagram. As an important emissary to Oak Ridge from Los Alamos, he too embarrassingly asked directly, whether it was a valve or a window, he pointed to the squares overlaid by a cross and inquired what would happen if the valve became stuck.

As luck would have it, it was indeed a valve. Even more astounding was that, if that particular valve had gotten stuck there would have been so much enriched uranium accumulating in one spot that an explosion was possible.

Feynman seems to see his insight as luck, but in the eyes of others only a genius could so directly point to a major design flaw. Be that as it may, what counts is to realize one’s short-comings, and not to yield to the all too human fear of seeming dumb or inadequate because of it.

It may be a trite statement, but you are here precisely because you don’t know everything, or need to deepen your understanding. Why place yourself in the way of the Caltech grinder if you don’t want to ask questions? Ask about the things that you do not understand. Go to classes, ask, read, and ask. Do the homework—on time. If you need help, and can’t find it in your lecture notes, your books, then turn to your classmates, your TA, a tutor, or may be even your professor.

In my situation, with no classmates or tutors at hand and a deadline looming, I turned to the Internet where I found a quote from Bob Land, class of 1971, (http://feyman.com/ online/responder. ht m) who says: “What I remember vividly is that every lecture Dr. Feynman would begin by asking the class, ‘First of all, are there any questions?’ One morning when he got no response from the class, he swept his glance across all our faces then suddenly bellowed, ‘Then what are you here for?’ Some laughed, but he was not joking. ‘You need to have questions because that’s the only way we can know what answers to look for! Ask!’ Hands went up right away.’

There was also http://f e y m a n . c om / online/ quotes.htm, a site where one can hear Feynman himself say “But I don’t have to know an answer. I don’t feel frightened by not knowing things, by being lost in the mysterious universe without having any purpose, which is the way it really is, as far as I can tell, possibly. It doesn’t frighten me.”

Clearly my friend was right about how Feynman felt, even though it does not appear to have had much to do with his coming here. So in the end it was not quite like a wild goose chase. In fact I came across all kinds of relevant things while rereading Surely you are joking... all kinds of things I had forgotten.

For one Feynman’s fascination with jokes and magic tricks including some with fire that ended painfully, and might have ended badly.

Nothing to glorify here, no, but one more reminder that fire and explosives endanger not only you, which is bad enough, but other Technicians, and the Institute itself. The world would have been poorer indeed if Feynman, but I’d rather not go on that again, it is painful and I talked about it last week. A bientot, my little Feynmans (apologies to Challenges & Choices).

Free Cash Grants!

WOMEN’S CENTER CALENDAR
OCTOBER 1998
October 9: He Said/She Said with Paula Goldsmith
Paula Goldsmith explores male-female communication as a cross-cultural experience.

October 13: The Future of Feminism: Lessons from Our Past with Sheila Tobias
This program is based on her recent book “Faces of Feminism: An Activist’s Reflections on the Women’s Movement”. Sheila has also talked on the question of women in science and will be available to answer questions on the past, present and future of feminism and the status of women in science. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet Sheila and hear her thoughts on the status of women in society and the impact of the feminist movement on society. Reservations are a must as lunch will be served. Send an e-mail or call x3221.

October 22: Staying Healthy and Fit in College with Suzanna Webster
Suzanna will be discussing exercise, nutrition and eating disorders as it relates to college life.

DEAN
The Joker, Surely
by Jean-Paul Reuel
Cornell and Caltech. The reasons given for his choice were, first, he was tired of winter and having to put chains on his car, second, he was touched by his host, Caltech Physicist Robert Bacher, who thoughtfully loaned him a car, thus giving him easy access to Hollywood and the Sunset Strip; and, third, Caltech let him start off with a Sabbatical year (which he had earned at Cornell), so he could go and teach in Brazil, an experience he looked forward to, having greatly enjoyed a previous trip there.

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It is! It isn't!

What are they?

ENEMY DANIEL ARAP SAYS IT ISN'T!

DANIEL SAYS IT IS!

SHERIFF HAS IT!

 signage is not possible.

I ENDED WITH IT, THEY

DO ME A FAVOR, AND SAY JUST KIDDING

WITH ED

OUR TALENT SHOW!

FOR CHARLIE, TIE TOGETHER,

IT RONICALLY, MAGIC IS MY

ONLY TALENT.

YOU KNOW ABOUT

THIS FOR WEEKS, NOW

I'LL HAVE TO WORK

ALL NIGHT!

COULD YOU AT LEAST

SAY SOMETHING THAT

SOUNDS GRATEFUL?

I'M GLAD!

MINUTE AFTER MY MOTHER'S

OCOON, WHO'S RIGHT?

SAY IT'S A SUPER HERO

WITH A VITALITY LIKE

TEN, BY ANY MEANS

THERE!

HOP, HOP, SPIDER MAN!

SHOUTS FROM SPECIAL

OFFICER HERE!

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Sat-Sun also 12:00, 2:45
Caltech Waterpolo makes splash!

BY GERALD PALMOSIS

As an observer, water polo seems simple enough — pass the ball around and take a shot at the goal, much like soccer. But as I watched our water Beavers fighting it out, I realized that this game was a full force thrash and battle game.

As Aaron Hicks put it, “Water polo is like football, only it’s more of a contact sport.”

Last Saturday, the Water Polo Team opened up its intercollegiate play hosting the Caltech Classic Tournament.

In the first game, Caltech, led by Mike Grebeck’s two goals, took an early 3-2 lead in the first period.

Then just before halftime, Biola scored on a nice lob shot to go up by one, 5-4.

But in the third period, the Beavers bounced back with two goals scored by Brian Collins and Eagle Jones.

One minute later, Biola skipped a shot past Vladimir Fedorov and the game was again tied. However, with 0:34 remaining in the third, Matt Higbie buried a long shot right into the corner of the net.

This shot was worth two points, the water polo equivalent of a deep three-pointer in basketball. This put the Beavers up 8-6.

In the fourth, Biola tied the game on a quick inside shot, but were then shut down for the rest of the quarter by the excellent play of Tech’s goalie, Vladimir Fedorov, and a very tight defense.

Tech then exercised some of their set plays and scored three consecutive goals to put the game out of reach, 11-8. Biola scored once more with 0:38 left to close the gap, but by then the Beavers had sealed the game up.

“Jones handled the set position very well and drew many kickouts and penalty shots,” related Coach Dodd.

Other good play was turned in by Tom Dualla, who handled mid tank and played solid defense, and Adam Thomason, who scored one goal and was a key component in the Beaver offense.

The other two matches found Caltech playing well at times but shooting poorly. The results were Caltech 6, Chapman College 15, and Caltech 6, Occidental 12.

Scoring for the two games were Jones, Grebeck 5, and Dualla 1. Picked from Caltech for the “All Tournament Team” were defensive standout Mike Grebeck and play-maker Brian Collins.

The next home match is October 15, a rematch against Biola.

Running Towards Conference

BY TIM RAUB

Over hill, over dale, they hit the dusty trail...and start running. These are the eight kilometer animals — the athletes sucking in the in-between minutes through San Marino. These are the cross-country runners.

Twenty-three Beaver athletes traveled to Biola last weekend to represent Caltech at the gruesome Biola Invitational.

Over a distance of five kilometers for women and eight kilometers for men, they measured their strength and endurance against runners from UCLA, CMS, LaVerne, Cal Lutheran, and twelve other teams.

The Beaver men turned in a strong ninth place performance while Caltech’s womens’ team beat LaVerne for the first time this season.

Sophomore Adrian Seymour led the mens’ team, finishing 26th in a field exceeding 200 runners and clocking a 27:51 over the hilly course.

Senior Conrad Ziesler put in a strong kick and junior Arjun Muralidhara finished close behind, while freshmen Tim Raub and Kenny Higa rounded out the Beaver scoring five.

Several more runners ran promising times in their first race of the season.

Phyllis Chen led the women’s team again, covering 3.1 miles in 21:53. Freshman Amy Kelly followed her by a minute, and Paula Whitten, Airner Pierce, and Tony Sturgeon also placed.

Coach Jasper Simon beamed, “It was a slow course but everyone ran solid times.”

His Beavers are running far better than last year, despite an injury that has kept junior Ian Shapiro busy taking splits rather than running.

And what he attributes this year’s series of strong races, Simon muttered something about “Reindeer Milk”.

With a week until Conference Multi-Duals, the team will run shorter but more intense workouts in preparation for November’s important meets.

With Shapiro back, several new runners in the mix, and two more weeks of training, the mens’ team hopes to finish in the top half of the SCIAC and the women look to improve their place too.

Recent Results

Men’s Cross Country
9th at Biola

Invitational Women’s Cross Country
13th at Biola Invitational

Men’s Soccer
Whitier def. Caltech 5-1

Women’s Volleyball
Occidental def. Caltech 3-1
Whitier def. Caltech 3-0
TSC Club def. Caltech 5-0

Men’s Water Polo
Caltech def. Biola 11-9
Chapman def. Caltech 15-6
Occidental def. Caltech 12-6

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You’ll also be getting hands-on training in a skill that will last you a lifetime. Army Reserve knows how to make weekends interesting. Are you interested?

Think about it. Then think about us. Then call: 1-800-USA-ARMY www.goarmy.com BE ALL YOU CAN BE! ARMY RESERVE

Upcoming Sporting Events

Friday, October 9
4:30 pm Men’s Soccer v. Stevens Institute of Technology

Saturday, October 10
11:00 am Men’s Soccer at University of LaVerne

Tuesday, October 13
7:30 pm Women’s Volleyball v. Life Bible

Wednesday, October 14
4:00 pm Men’s Soccer v. Pomona-Pitzer

Thursday, October 15
4:30 pm Men’s Water Polo v. Villanova
Students interested in Management Consulting

We would like to welcome all Caltech Ph.D.s and postdocs. We look forward to seeing you at our presentation on:

Thursday
October 15, 1998
4:00 PM
102 Steele

We welcome expressions of interest from Ph.D.s and postdocs from all disciplines interested in positions in any of our global offices.

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First Round Interviews: November 19

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Lost and Found Items from Fresh Camp: (1) Swiss Army Knife (2) B.U.M. Equipment Pocket Watch (1) Navy Blue Hooded Sweatshirt (1) Black Nylon jacket (1) Bar- gundy pillow case with pillow (1) Blue and tan plaid quilted jacket. Please call Karen Denning, Assistant to the Dean of Students, Caltech 102-31, Pasadena, CA 91125, 626/395-6351 or Fax 626/ 577-4215. Please note new email address: uacete@caltech.edu

Come join the Caltech Toastmasters Club at our next meeting and find out how to improve your public-speaking skills. The Club meets every 3rd Thursday from 12:00 - 1:00 pm in Beckman Institute, room 121. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 15th. For more information please contact Louisa Toot, x3408, louisa@library.caltech.edu.

Caltech Guitar Classes for the Fall

BEGINNING CLASSES

3:00 - 4:00 PM, October 10, 17, 24, 31

Intermediate Guitar Class

3:00 - 4:00 PM, October 10, 17, 24, 31

Advanced Guitar Class

3:00 - 6:00 PM, October 10, 17, 24, 31

Each course lasts for 8 weeks. Tuition is $60.00 for Caltech members of the CIT Community. Private lessons are also available. For further information email Denning at ddennlling@caltech.edu.

EXTRADIMENSIONS

The World AcappellaFest will be held Saturday, October 9, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Skirball Cultural Center as part of the "Cartoon Art" Lecture series. For tickets call 213-660-8587.

"Corporate Tiffany: A Call to Action," sponsored by Mobilization for the Human Family will occur Saturday, October 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 3300 Wilshire Blvd. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. The lecture will be brief and child care is available. For more information, call the Mobilization Office at 399-625-8722.

The next Watson Lecture Series presentation will feature Kenneth H. Nealson, Senior Research Scientist, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, in a talk entitled "The Search for Extraterrestrial Life: Lessons from Earth." The lecture will take place on October 21st at 8:00 p.m. at Beckman Auditorium. The lecture is free and seating is based on a first-come, first-served basis.

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The John Amos Ford Amphitheatre in Hollywood. There will be an after­noon concert at 3:00 p.m. and an evening concert at 7:30 p.m. For information and tickets, call 877-222­7352.

The San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the Red Cross is holding their first annual 5K Fun Run/Walk on Halloween weekend; October 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., October 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and October 31st from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. It will be held at the Red Cross Headquarters, 430 Madeline Drive in Pasadena (corner of Orange Grove Boulevard & Madeline Drive).

Fellowships and Scholarships

*NSF Scholarships for 1999–2000

Applications for National Security Education Program (NSEP) undergraduate scholarships are currently available and open for study abroad in Latin American countries for the fall of 1999, winter 1999, and spring 2000. Scholarships are available to U.S. citizens enrolled at two-and four-year institutions who wish to study abroad in critical world areas in Africa, Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, Latin and South America, and the Middle East. Scholarships are not available for study in Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Sophonores and Juniors majoring in science and engineering may apply to study for a summer. This summer, Wati Ogburn ’99 studied Russian language in culture in St. Petersburg under an NSF Fellowship. During the summer of 1998, Jeanne Wilson ’98, who is now on a Watson Fellowship, studied Turkish language and culture in Istanbul.

The maximum scholarship is $8,000 per semester and $16,000 per academic year. The campus application deadline for the 1999–2000 academic year is January 25, 1999. Turn all materials into the Fellowships Advising Office, Room 25 of the SAC. All applicants must under­go and endorsement interview with Lauren Stemple, Director of Fellowships Advising. Applications will be available in Fellowships Advising through mid-October. Additional in­formation on preferred geographic regions, language, and fields of study and application procedures can be found at http://www.nsep.org. (FAR)

Applications are available at http://www.watsonfound.org. For information, call dwashburn@caltech.edu or visit the Information Desk in Beckman Institute.

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*NSF Scholarships for 1999–2000

Applications for National Security Education Program (NSEP) undergraduate scholarships are currently available and open for study abroad in Latin American countries for the fall of 1999, winter 1999, and spring 2000. Scholarships are available to U.S. citizens enrolled at two-and four-year institutions who wish to study abroad in critical world areas in Africa, Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, Latin and South America, and the Middle East. Scholarships are not available for study in Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Sophonores and Juniors majoring in science and engineering may apply to study for a summer. This summer, Wati Ogburn ’99 studied Russian language in culture in St. Petersburg under an NSF Fellowship. During the summer of 1998, Jeanne Wilson ’98, who is now on a Watson Fellowship, studied Turkish language and culture in Istanbul.

The maximum scholarship is $8,000 per semester and $16,000 per academic year. The campus application deadline for the 1999–2000 academic year is January 25, 1999. Turn all materials into the Fellowships Advising Office, Room 25 of the SAC. All applicants must undergo an endorsement interview with Lauren Stemple, Director of Fellowships Advising. Applications will be available in Fellowships Advising through mid-October. Additional information on preferred geographic regions, language, and fields of study and application procedures can be found at http://www.nsep.org. (FAR)

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (formerly the National Hispanic Graduate Fellows Fund) is accepting applications for scholarships. Scholarships range from $500 to $2,000. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents of Hispanic heritage, full-time undergraduate or graduate student, and already completed at least 45 units of undergraduate work. All applicants must submit a minimum 2.5 GPA. Application materials are available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline is October 15, 1998. (FAR)

The Southern California Chapter of Women in Cable & Telecommunications is offering a $1,000 Jeanne Cardinal Grant to one female junior or senior student residing in Southern California. Applicants must plan to pursue a career in the telecommunications field, have a 3.0 or higher GPA, and be active in at least one school approved campus organization or in community service. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Application due date is October 31. (FAR)

The Northrop Grumman Corporation is offering a $3,000 scholarship to an undergraduate who has a career interest in the Aerospace Defense Industry. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, full-time students in 1998-99, and must have a 3.0 or higher GPA. Applicants must also be majoring in one of the following fields: Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Aeronautical and Space Engineering, Computer Science, Engineering, or Manufacturing Engineering. To apply, submit a resume and academic transcript to the Financial Aid Office by October 16, 1998. (FAR)

For information on the listed fellowships, assistance with essays, or clarification of questions, contact:

FAR - The Fellowships Advising and Resources Office. For information, please contact karen_sylzer@starlink.caltech.edu. To make an appointment, call x2150.

USA - The Undergraduate Financial Aid Office. For information, call 626/203 or stop by 535 S. Wilson for an appointment.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact mints@tech.caltech.edu or Mail Code 040-035 by noon on the Friday prior to its inclusion. Submissions are published every Monday. Please do not send Mints in different formats like boxed or word-wrapped, and always use your board contact number if you are a graduate student. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material.