IHC Rotation meetingto be held

Before the school year began, the IHC went on a retreat to discuss everything about Rotation. Part of the result was published in the California Tech in the form of interpretations and justifications of the Rotation Rules. The other main result was the decision to review Rotation.

It has been a while since Rotation has been reviewed on a campus wide basis. The Interhouse Committee believes that Rotation should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it is working as intended. To accomplish this, they have put out a Rotation Survey and are holding a Rotation Review forum.

The goal of the survey is to have two fold degenerate. The first half of the survey is intended to gauge how successful Rotation has been in finding the best match between new students and the seven undergraduate Houses.

The IHC hopes the second half of the survey will reveal the effectiveness and the general campus opinion of the Rotation Rules. Surveys have been put in the mail boxes. Jaideep Singh, Chairman of the IHC, strongly encourages everyone to fill out the survey and return it. The survey may be returned to anyone on IHC.

Jaideep has stated that comments on Rotation are also welcome, but need to be returned by Saturday afternoon. The deadline has been set so that results can be tabulated and posted before the Rotation Review forum.

Physics and Music meet in Karamazovs Show

On October 30th, Beckman Auditorium hosted a lecture and demonstration on classical physics. Physics talks are nothing new to Caltech, but this presentation was different: the world-renowned speakers, one of whom claims a degree in English literature, relied more on equations to convey their message and freely admitted that "we don't have the slightest idea what we're doing."

Rather than a visiting professor, the Flying Karamazov Brothers performed last Friday, filling two hours with juggling, music, and social satire. The show, entitled "Sharps, Flats and Accidents," began spoofing Mozart and Bach, then moved to Japanese Taiko, ballet, and jazz.

While known for their skill at juggling these objects during the Flying Karamazov Brothers' performance at Beckman Auditorium.

A "very dead fish" flies through the air, along with a Slinky and balloon sculpture in an unusual demonstration of physics. "The Champ," Ivan Karamazov, eventually succeeded in juggling these objects during the Flying Karamazov Brothers' performance at Beckman Auditorium.
Brothers...  
Continued from Page 1

audience, but failure meant a pie in the face. Items brought by audience members included powerful magnets, a used diaper, an electronic insult machine, and various shoes. However, the spectators finally selected a Slinky, a balloon-water sculpture, and "a very dead fish." After several attempts and allowed modifications to the items, Ivan successfully juggled the objects, though most of the dead fish ended up strung across the stage.

The evening was brimming with the superb showmanship, energy and hilarity that have made the Flying Karamazovs international favorites over their past twenty-five years of touring. The group’s vivacity in performance is amazing considering that ’70s bands are starting reunion tours, but as Fyodor said, "...its still more fun than a pig in an aluminum factory!"

The Lehman Brothers advertisement appearing on page five of the October twenty-third issue indicates the wrong date for their information session. The correct date is November 16, 1998, at 4 p.m. in SAC 13. We apologize for this error on our part and hope this has not caused any confusion.

Correction...  
Continued from Page 1

the forum will be held in Winnetku Club Room-1 this Sunday at 4 p.m. The entire undergraduate community is invited. The IHC will use a talk show style form to carry out the meeting. The agenda of the forum is fairly nebulous, however, the IHC intends to discuss the survey results, the Rotation Rules, and the effectiveness of the process.

Inner Core...  
Continued from Page 1

DONALD HELMBOGER was a recipient of the 1987 Lehmann Medal of Geophysics. Xiaodong Song is one of his former graduate students.

In the article, "Candidates, their looks, their quirks and the election" last week, some text was missing. As a result, portions of the article misrepresented the author's opinions and the candidates' positions.

Specifically, her opinion on the Republican candidate for U.S. Representative, James Rogan, the text that read "I don’t dig the separation of church and state" should have read "I don’t dig the blurring of separation of church and state."
Annual Prufrock Party Features High Variety Of Costumes

BY TECH STAFF

This year's Prufrock Halloween Party, held last Saturday night, had an impressive turnout of costumed guests from the undergraduate, graduate, and faculty facets of the Caltech community.

The party, which is sponsored by the Department of Biology, is traditionally held on the Saturday following Halloween. This year the party just happened to fall on Halloween itself.

Prufrock House itself, located just across the street from Beckman Institute, was packed solid for a good portion of the night, with people slowly moving through the crowd of people standing around to get refreshments or to get onto the dance floor. Even more people were gathered on the lawn outside of the building.

However, the most impressive thing about the Prufrock party has always been the costumes, which many of the people in attendance create for the occasion. Costumes included a left field wall, complete with scoreboard, a keg of beer (which actually worked), and a living lab practicum.

Keith Matthews, a second year graduate student and Resident Associate of Blacker House, built his costume. He went as a peacock, and crafted his feathers out of wood, bolts, and paper so that he could have a tail that expanded and contracted like the real bird.

Jen Shively, the other half of the Blacker R.A. duo, spent her time crafting a finely decorated mask for her Tiger costume.

Physics grad student and Phys 2a TA, Mike Hartl, went as a British judge, complete with accent. Fellow physics grad student and Phys 1a TA, Rob Forster, went as a jester to show off his juggling talent.

The members of Prufrock house were not to be upstaged by their guests in costume creativity. Yen Bui went as a human-sized version of the Ace of Diamonds. Tina Iversen went as Cindy Lauper. Martha Kirouac went as a cat burglar. Jen Ottesen went as Lara Croft from Tomb Raider. Shanti Rao went as the Mad Hatter with a knock-Lincoln's-socks-off hat. Kevin Scaldeferr went as Argon Zark. Tom Tubman went as a member of the opposite sex.

Some people chose films as the basis for their costumes, like Zorro, Marilyn Monroe, or a dead floating body from Titanic. Others went more traditional as witches, pumpkins, skeletons, or other maimed or dead figures. Of course, most costumes fell into the random category - cowboys, jesters, babies, and the like.

Some costumes even tried to be the life of the party. This one in particular, (could it have been inspired by the 'ever-popular' GUSH?), supposedly was as functional as a real keg of beer. See http://www.its.caltech.edu/~prufrock for more pictures.
Clubwatch!

The Aero Association of Caltech (The Caltech/IPL Flying Club) will have its biannual general membership meeting on Wednesday, November 11th at 7:30 p.m. in room 269 Lauritsen. The meeting includes guest speaker John Papas or Dreamflight, who will speak about club opportunities to fly the restored DC-3 "Rose," a slide presentation of the club's recent visit to Edwards Air Force Base, and refreshments. This meeting is open to everyone. For more information, contact Greg Detweiler at x1697, gregory@sds.edu.

The Caltech Anime Society holds showings every Friday and Saturday night starting at 7:00 p.m. in Beckman Institute, room 121 to work on speaking skills. The next meeting will be held Thursday November 19th. For more information, contact Louisa Toot, x3408, louisa@library or Jesus Ayala, x6744, finjima@finance.

The Caltech Toastmasters Club meets every 3rd Thursday from noon to 1:00 p.m. in Beckman Institute, room 121 to work on speaking skills. The next meeting will be held Thursday November 19th. For more information, contact Louisa Toot, x3408, louisa@library or Jesus Ayala, x6744, finjima@finance.

The Juggling Club meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 5:00 p.m. in front of Beckman to practice and try group juggling patterns. All those interested may attend. For more information, email forster@sds.edu.

The Nine or Ten Guys Who Secretly Control Everything: Meet in the Hayman Lounger at 9:30. Swing dancing in Avery to follow. Please email gatesb@microsoft.com for directions.

Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS), is planning a star party at Joshua Tree National Park on Saturday, November 21st. Groups will be leaving from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Carpools are available. Activities include a brief hike, boulder gazing and climbing, a group dinner, and a night of space-gazing. For more information, contact seda@sds.edu.

The Tang Soo Do club will be attending the Mexican National Championship Tournament on Saturday, November 7th in Mexico City. Classes are Mondays and Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7:00 p.m. in the Brown gym and are open to the entirety of the Caltech Community. For more information, email Ricardo.Hassan@jpl.nasa.gov.

News

by Cheryl Forest

Central America: This region is struggling to recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Mitch, which killed an estimated 11,000 people before heading out over the Atlantic Ocean Thursday. The worst damage occurred in Honduras; the government there is reporting 6,500 dead and over 11,000 missing. In Nicaragua, the death toll has already reached 3,800.

New York: The United Nations voted unanimously Thursday to condemn Iraq and to demand that Baghdad immediately resume cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors. The condemnation came in the wake of Iraq's decision last week to stop all cooperation with the U.N. Special Commission. The U.N. resolution doesn't state any consequences for Iraq, although Great Britain and the U.S. are pressing for possible military action.

United States: For the first time since 1934, the party of the president gained seats during Tuesday's midterm election. In the Senate, the balance stayed the same as prior to the election; the Republicans have 55 seats and the Democrats have 45. In the House, the Democrats gained five seats and now have 211 seats. The Republicans have 223 seats, and one Representative from Vermont is an Independent.

London: Augusto Pinochet, a former Chilean dictator, is currently in London awaiting the end of a trial that will decide whether or not he will be extradited. The Spanish government is pushing to have him extradited for "crimes against humanity" committed during his rule, but due to a law in Britain protecting heads of state from prosecution, he has yet to leave London. Lawyers representing Spain and such groups as Amnesty International are arguing that international laws supersede national laws in cases such as this.

Minneapolis: In one of the more memorable elections to occur this election year, Jesse "The Mind" (formerly "The Body") Ventura, a former WWF wrestler and Navy SEAL, sailed past two career politicians to become the next governor of the great state of Minnesota. Ventura initially asked former Minnesota Twins first baseman Kent Hrbek to be his running mate, but Hrbek turned the offer down because it "would have interfered with [his] fishing, hunting, and bowling." Instead, Ventura ran with St. Paul schools teacher Mac Schunk. Upon being elected, he immediately broke one of his less-than-serious campaign promises: He did not rappel into the state Capitol from a helicopter.

The Outside World

The Outside World

by Cheryl Forest

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John Carpenter's Vampires—"Better stick with Buffy!"

BY JUSTIN HO

Rated R: For excessive blood and gore, harsh language, gratuitous nudity, and critics that go bump in the night.

There's something to be said about moviers whose titles have a director's name preceding them—the film crew is depending on the success of movies past for a good showing, and while this may work for the debut weekend, the reviews are bound to catch up. "John Carpenter's Vampires" is simply gee-darn awful. Following in the footsteps of "From Dusk 'Til Dawn", there is absolutely nothing original about a showdown between vampires and cowboys in the Old West. Butchering the movie with an even worse blend of music, however, is charting new territory.

James Woods, who is in desperate need of a new agent, stars as the pope-endorsed vampire slayer who leads a melange of flunkies through New Mexico to exterminate vampire nests. To their credit, they have a nice hodge-podge of artillery: bows and arrows and knives, which themselves don't do anything. The arrows are intended to remain in the vampire, and then a jeep which pulls a cable attached to the arrow drags the living dead into the Sun to turn into crispy treats. In response to the need to fill time due to its very blatant lack of plot, the movie focuses a bit too much time on how the slayers need to get equipped to kill the unlucky suckers. With all the time they need just to get ready, it's no wonder then that the pimp daddy of vampires, 600 year old Valek, literally makes mincemeat of the crew, with only Crow (James Woods) and cheeseily-named sidekick Montoya (Daniel Baldwin), barely sneaking by with their lives. After their much anticipated first routing of vampires, the members had felt the need to get a little freakin' with some beer and gratuitous nudity.

Valek, evidently tipped off by someone in the Vampire Slayers 'R' Us association, with super-human strength and inhuman cruelty, decided to make a most interesting party-crashing scene. Word to those who may be squeamish — the way the first guy dies leaves straight off the TV with a quality reminiscent of "Those Bastards, they killed Kenny." Anyhow, amidst screams and fountains of blood, Valek rips all but the two afore-mentioned members apart. Jack Crow is also fortunate enough to save one special prostitute who had been bitten but hadn't turned yet, and this is of course a prudent measure, since she is unexplainably telepathically linked to Valek. What good does Katrina do? Well, she'll eventually turn into a vampire herself, but not until the two-man demolition hunt downs Valek again. Seriously, the man from the dark dungeon of despair killed about 19 people—you have to wonder that Jack and Montoya's little future escapade is going to yield either an unhappy ending, or one that is incredibly cheesy.

The mystery of why this 13th century Czech priest turned blood sucker is vampiring around New Mexico becomes the focus of the duo plus slut. Folklore has it that the cross on which Valek was crucified during the exorcism 600 years ago is in some unknown location in the New Mexican desert, guarded by hapless friars. What the cross does isn't known until the very end of the story, but in the mean time, the friars get killed eventually too, but not before Carpenter introduces a few more bad Halloween costumes. The pale skin, cape, and lack of interesting make-up leaps right off the pages of goth talk.

In a final showdown, two days after the bloody massacre, Crow, Montoya, human-awaiting-transformation prostitute, and a new tagalong priest are led to the sleepy town of Santiago. The town of 30 inhabitants have all been turned into vampires, and are very hush-hush about their presence, as they face the slayers to hunt them in the shadows. Suddenly realizing that it is sundown, however, without having destroyed the Master, the crew attempts to flee the scene, but it's already too late. Well, not really because we all know how the ending will turn out anyway. The merciless Valek keeps Jack Crow around to witness his rise to power, yada yada yada, while it is assumed that the others just disappeared. As an ally, Valek has elicited the help of a cardinal who agreed to perform a new exorcism which would give Valek the power to walk in the day. Sunlight being the only thing that can kill a vampire since wooden stakes, crosses, and garlic don't work like in the

There is limited number of people who can go. Harry Turtledove is a science-fiction writer that we are bringing to speak to us in conjunction with SPECTRE. He was an undergraduate here at Tech. The current plan is for him to come Monday, January 11, and speak after dinner, 7:30.

The Y is working on starting Trail Maintenance trips where we would clean deadwood and new growth on trails. Look for an event November 21st.

Keep checking the Y news for more updates. If you'd like to join us, meet at Steele House every Monday at 12:15. Bring your lunch and come help us plan trips. If there is something you want to do, bring your ideas.

Elisa Chiang
Secretary, Caltech Y

Lehman Brothers

cordially invites undergraduates to attend an information session on career opportunities in Sales, Trading, Research & Origination

Monday, November 16, 1998 at 4:00 p.m.
Student Activities Center
Room 13
Montoya couldn't help getting bitten by the prostitute and leaves with 2 days headstart to get to Mexico before Jack, forced to hunt him down too; and in the end, Jack and his new priestly sidekick are like Humphrey Bogart and the magistrate of Casablanca hunting vampires together — The End.

There's nothing scary about this movie, except perhaps the fact that Columbia Pictures even released it.

If not for your sake, then for his.

It's a demented world out there. Sure you can sit there and do nothing in your room. Or, you can take some action!

Take some initiative!

Write for The Tech.

...and maybe we won't ductape you to a tree
An e-mail was sent Meeting begins at 22:00. There will be an open discussion Lounge (if something) starting November or some­thing.

General Business

Discussion Rotation - There will be an open discussion of the policy and procedure regarding Rotation on Monday, November 2, at 9 pm in Winnett Lounge (if I can get it, or else 22 Gates) Tanya will put mail in the Mailboxes, put up flyers, try to get a directory e-mail out, and put an ad in the Tech.

House Dinners - Blacker is having Rudderock over (this week). Dabney will have one floor of Page over soon, and the normal floor on a different night. Also Jaideep wants to house-faculty-institute discussions, so in­clude NFFA's, Faculty, Admis­sions, Staff, and Patrick the new food guy over for dinner.

IHC Meetings - 24:00 (midnight for the normal people) every Thursday in SAC 33. Come on by and get shifty with us.

IHC account - We inherited Audrey's A&H Man account from ASCIT and we'll just use that when checking out the van. Also Tanya will ask Biff about that thing where late charges for housing contracts go into our budget.

Adjourned around ~22:40. Respectfully, Tanya Tickel

Present: All, Audrey Lee, Ronnie, Mark, Stona, Wedge, Erik and Autumn

Our Guests:
Ryan - Deanna Carrick is moved from Fleming A&H list to Daubney A&H list.
Dave - The Caltech Dining Service handbook is finished, and will be mailed out next week. The Dining Service Sur­vey sheets are in a binder for people to look at, and Dave parsed the data into a thousand different pie charts. All of the information from the surveys, (specifically the important graphs) will be published in the Tech pretty soon. Patrick, the new head of CDS, is awesome, and will fix anything you ask him. CDS is aware that the food for dinner often runs out before Page and Fleming even start eat­ ing. They have increased orders, and Dave has asked them to have food ready at 5:45 instead of the current 5:20, in hopes that this will accordingly shift the time that all the food is con­sumed. The Convenience Store Surveys have also been parsed, and the data is readily available for those interested. (Talk to Dave.) $1.00 per week is currently on the Koster/Muslim board plan. Maybe the IHC can get a dinner with the Public Relations Committee. Dave will help us find out, since he's on the com­mittee.

General Business

Meetings - have been changed to Thursdays, 10:30 pm, so that Mike can come again. Also, the IHC will try to have one meeting a month dur­ing the afternoon, so that mem­bers of the Administration can come. This would espe­cially like this if the members of the administration took the IHC out to lunch during this meeting.

CDC: The Career Development Center is alarmed by the small number of Seniors who are eligible for on-campus inter­views. About half of the inter­views on-campus happen in the month of November. The IHC will announce to their houses that Seniors must sign up for inter­views NOW.

Pranks: An e-mail was sent to Kim West saying that $750 in damage from a prank was done to the lecture hall in 201 E. Bridge. If you are going to com­mit a prank, be sure to accept responsibility for your actions. The staff of the Millikan Library is concerned for students who sneak onto the roof without per­mission. Jaideep is going to talk to them about this.

Rotation - A Rotation Sur­vey will go out. Also, a meet­ing to discuss Rotation will be held on Sunday, Nov. 8 at 4:00 pm in Winnett Club Room 1. The meeting will be held in the style of a talk show. Jaideep will do a dance if more than 20 people show up.

Tom Mannion - Has invited each of the student houses to a dinner with him over the next couple of weekends. The House Presidents will tell you when each house's dinner has been sched­uled.

Discolusus - Ruddock lost in Softball to Fleming; Daubney challenged Fleming in Basketball.

Alumni Association - Warren Gode from the Alumni association wants to visit the un­iversity shortly. We'll find out when this will accordingly shift the time that all the food is con­sumed. The Convenience Store Surveys have also been parsed, and the data is readily available for those interested. (Talk to Dave.) $1.00 per week is currently on the Koster/Muslim board plan. Maybe the IHC can get a dinner with the Public Relations Committee. Dave will help us find out, since he's on the com­mittee.

Respectfully, Tanya Tickel

A.S.C.T.I. Minutes November 2, 1998

Note: A quorum of the Board of Directors was not present at this meeting. These notes are not an official record of ASCIT, Inc.

Present: Baldepe Sadhal, Jaideep Singh, Mike Astle, Hanna Kim, John Lin, Marie Fox, Lexi Baughier, Shammion Stewman, Katy Isaacs, Erik Dill, Nicholas Breen

Meeting begins at 22:10.

Dealing With Guests

The Tech - The editors want a new printer. Since other publications share the Tech’s resources they are looking for this to be a shared expense. It is likely that the Big T will be able to kick in some cash but the Totem and little s need to have money in for this kind of purchase. The Tech staff wants the BoD to help out from general ASCIT funds. The printer will be at most $3000 and the Tech has about $2000 on hand. This issue will be passed along to a quorum of the BoD for consideration.

Marie - Requests
Alcohol now ex- cluded from Inter­house Athletic events

By Gerald Palmore and Tim Raus

The athletic department has applied a new alcohol policy to Interhouse sporting events. The policy is a result of complaints made to the athletic department regarding Ricketts and Kedick Houses, which brought alcoholic beverages to their first softball games. Baseball coach John D’Auria, who oversaw the Interhouse softball tournament, confronted Ricketts spectators about the incident, and they were not allowed to remain on the athletic department’s fields while in possession of alcoholic beverages.

The ruling was based on the following excerpt from the online edition of the “Little J”; (http://www.uucs.caltech.edu/~jch/sports.shtml)

Sportmanship:
Students are expected to abide by standards of good sportsmanship while participating in Interhouse competition. Disruptive or otherwise inappropriate behavior will result in immediate disqualification of the offending student(s) at the discretion of the sport moderator and may result in further action against the offending student(s) e.g., suspension from one or more further Interhouse competitions by majority vote of the non-involved Ath Managers, subject to appeal by the IHC.

While this statement does not specifically address alcohol, the spirit and intent of it’s does. "The Athletic Department finds alcohol consumption during undergraduate intramural activities that are organized and directly supervised by the department to be inappropriate behavior," said Wendell Jack, Interim Director of Athletics.

The Graduate Student Council uses the department athletic fields for sporting events as well and alcohol is frequently consumed at these events. However, the athletic department does not directly sponsor these events, so Jack’s policy would not apply.

“Safety is also a major issue. The thought of alcohol being consumed by participants with bats and balls, flying about, quite frankly, is very dangerous.”

The inherent level of competition in the Interhouse Sports environment begs any rational sports professional - e.g., our coaches - to find absolutely no place for alcohol in, around and/or during Interhouse Sports events.”

Ricketts House member Cynthia Gong notes: “I don’t drink. I just want to get Scuvres to come and play. I was really mad. They made it seem like it was all about alcohol, but only Scuvres [over the age of 21] were allowed to drink beer. I don’t see what’s wrong about drinking responsibly when the OSC does it all the time.”

Caltech Cross Country places 6th, 7th in SCIAC

By Gerald Palmore

Last Saturday, the Caltech Men’s and Women’s Cross Country Teams completed their final SCIAC race of the year, placing 6th and 7th respectively at the SCIAC Championship held at Prado Park in Chino. Although Claremont-Mudd-Scipps ran away with the team titles, the Beavers had some outstanding individual placings.

The men’s team was led by Adrian Seymour (11th), Arjun Mendiratt (17th), and Conrad Ziesler (43rd) who all broke 30 minutes for the rolling 5-mile course. The Lady Beavers had strong races from Phylib Chen (21st) and Amy Kelly (36th). Finishing in the middle of the pack but still having good finishes were freshmen Tim Raub (69th) and Kenny Higa (72nd).

The women’s scoring five was rounded out by Paula Whiten (63rd), Tory Sturgeon (73rd), and Aimee Pierce (76th).

Said Higa, “It was a difficult race, but I think we had some pretty solid performances and we’re hoping to do even better at Regionals.” Finishing only 20 points behind Pomona-Pitzer and Occidental, strong races across the board could bring the men’s highest conference finish in recent history.

New coach Jasper Simon put the team in perspective, saying “What we need to do here is establish some sort of continuity between seasons and from year to year. There’s no reason, with the talent and motivation that Caltech runners have, that we can’t make a serious bid for Conference next year.”

The Regional Championship will be held on November 14th, where UC San Diego is the favorite to go on to Nationals. Caltech will compete against all seven conference teams as well as college teams making trips from Colorado, Oregon, and Washington.
I felt overburdened and tired a couple of weeks ends ago, so I jumped at my wife's suggestion that we watch a movie at home, *the blurh in the TV guide,* and famous actors too. It sounded just like the thing to break the black mood I had worked myself into. I should have noticed that something was wrong even before the title of the movie was displayed on the screen. Two cops, weapons drawn, were slinking down a dark hallway and entering a bedroom where two people lay asleep... it was a tip off that I had worked myself into. I was mad at myself for having wasted my time watching this three star horror show. I thought surely the world is not like that; but then may be it is and I have on side blinders which let me see only what I want to believe...

Could it really be so? Could I be blind and deaf to the extent of brutality in our times? Do the kinds of things I read about in the news really happen here, not just somewhere? Are people dragged to their death behind moving vehicles here as they are in Somalia? Are explosives thrown into crowds of innocent bystanders here as well as in the Middle East?

What is different here is that people rarely blow themselves up along with their victims. They just plot away for months or act rashly, and blow up a building or let off steam along with nails at the Olympics (although we still don't know for sure who did that or why). Not that blowing yourself up along with your victims makes it all right to do.

However much I wish it not to be so, new horrors keep on coming to light, like mass graves in the Balkans, some even fostered by madmen or fanatics (sorry if I offend anyone) but by beloved leaders of the Nation, such as JFK and Ron Reagan. In my more romantic days, I thought that only our political opponents were capable of such deeds. I did not even want to hear about our misdeeds. Oh, all right, we have to play the international intrigue game like everyone else, openly bombing Moamar Kadaifi and secretly plotting against Fidel Castro. Not that I necessarily like these guys, but that is a different story.

I guess I am a naive American, even if an adaptive one. We are a God fearing nation, wishing our astronauts Godspeed, repeating our trust on our coins, endlessly arguing about prayer in school (my prayer of course, not yours) and listening to presidential speeches which end with wishing on us the blessings of Heaven. This is a country where we value human life, yet there are those who feel that it is O.K. to shoot physicians and coworkers with whom they disagree. And here I thought that possess and lynching mobs were things of the past, and that we had replaced coarse frontier justice by the reign of Law. How can we dole out brutality elsewhere, the trampling of human rights in other countries about which we understand little and yet condone the kinds of things that happen here? The poverty in the midst of this richest country in the world, the bigotry here as in the Middle East, the cruelty of not having medical help for all, in this country of the most advanced medicine.

And is it high entertainment, not an immoral callous money grubbing undertaking to show our kids continual brutality on TV, in movies, cartoons and this way teach them that 'pow, pow, pow, killing, savaging' (I mean' Kung Fu') is the way to solve problems? And how can a Church, presumably dedicated to the worship of peace and love, picket funerals, spreading its version of the Gospel, (God hates Fags, Rom.9:13). (I checked; it says 'God hates Esau', which I understand? I don't.

As the French are claimed to have said (although I doubt it) Vive la Difference.

A bientot.

Jean Paul Revel

---

Dean's Corner

Boom Boom Pow and the WBC

by Jean-Paul Revel

was the story of an internal police investigator who: pow pow boom, pow pow screech one more dead and a jealous wife and pow boom pow sex drinks and prostitutes first fights more shooting... well, you get the picture.

By the end of the movie most of the principals were dead. Those that were not dead were wounded in body or in mind and no one was the wiser. I was mad at myself for having wasted my time watching this three star horror show. I thought surely the world is not like that; but then may be it is and I have on side blinders which let me see only what I want to believe...

Could it really be so? Could I be blind and deaf to the extent of brutality in our times? Do the kinds of things I read about in the news really happen here, not just somewhere? Are people dragged to their death behind moving vehicles here as they are in Somalia? Are explosives thrown into crowds of innocent bystanders here as well as in the Middle East?

What is different here is that people rarely blow themselves up along with their victims. They just plot away for months or act rashly, and blow up a building or let off steam along with nails at the Olympics (although we still don't know for sure who did that or why). Not that blowing yourself up along with your victims makes it all right to do.

However much I wish it not to be so, new horrors keep on coming to light, like mass graves in the Balkans, some even fostered by madmen or fanatics (sorry if I offend anyone) but by beloved leaders of the Nation, such as JFK and Ron Reagan. In my more romantic days, I thought that only our political opponents were capable of such deeds. I did not even want to hear about our misdeeds. Oh, all right, we have to play the international intrigue game like everyone else, openly bombing Moamar Kadaifi and secretly plotting against Fidel Castro. Not that I necessarily like these guys, but that is a different story.

I guess I am a naive American, even if an adaptive one. We are a God fearing nation, wishing our astronauts Godspeed, repeating our trust on our coins, endlessly arguing about prayer in school (my prayer of course, not yours) and listening to presidential speeches which end with wishing on us the blessings of Heaven. This is a country where we value human life, yet there are those who feel that it is O.K. to shoot physicians and coworkers with whom they disagree. And here I thought that possess and lynching mobs were things of the past, and that we had replaced coarse frontier justice by the reign of Law. How can we dole out brutality elsewhere, the trampling of human rights in other countries about which we understand little and yet condone the kinds of things that happen here? The poverty in the midst of this richest country in the world, the bigotry here as in the Middle East, the cruelty of not having medical help for all, in this country of the most advanced medicine.

And is it high entertainment, not an immoral callous money grubbing undertaking to show our kids continual brutality on TV, in movies, cartoons and this way teach them that 'pow, pow, pow, killing, savaging' (I mean Kung Fu') is the way to solve problems? And how can a Church, presumably dedicated to the worship of peace and love, picket funerals, spreading its version of the Gospel, (God hates Fags, Rom.9:13). (I checked; it says 'God hates Esau', which I understand? I don't.

As the French are claimed to have said (although I doubt it) Vive la Difference.

A bientot.

Jean Paul Revel

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THE BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP

PRESENTATION & CASE INTERVIEW WORKSHOP

Are you a graduating senior interested in strategy consulting? If so, please join us for an informal reception to learn more about our Associate Program and how a "case interview" works.

Tuesday, November 10th
Athenaeum
4:00-6:00pm

AMSTERDAM
ATLANTA
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BOSTON
BUENOS AIRES
CRACOW
DALLAS
BUDAPEST
CESENA
ESZTERGOM
FRANKFURT
HAMBURG
HELLENES
HONG KONG
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KUALA LUMPUR
LISBON
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LOS ANGELES
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MIAMI
MILAN
MUNICH
NEW YORK
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SINGAPORE
SOLL
SHANGHAI
SINGAPORE
STOCKHOLM
SYDNEY
TOKYO
TORONTO
WASHINGDON, D.C.
ZURICH

November 6, 1998
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I was not planning on writing this column, or some incarnation of it, for quite a while, but a number of things in a past issue of the Tech prompted me to do so (recall that I need to write my columns almost a week before the Tech is published, so this isn't such old news for me). The title, by the way, comes from a short story collection by Harlan Ellison, a writer whom I strongly recommend (that particular collection isn't his best, but this isn't a book review).

The "Dean's Corner" two weeks ago discussed cybersex and glomming. Just how the made the connection between the two, I don't quite understand, but my concern is with the letter. Merriam-Webster's online dictionary states that the word "glomming" is "to grab hold of or appropriate to oneself" with synonyms "take, steal, seize, or catch." Unfortunately, this is in opposition to the definition cited from Webster's Unabridged in the Dean's column ("to look at, to watch"), so we do not really have a standard definition of the word to work with. I will, however, assume its meaning to be the colloquial one that is used here at Caltech: A sexist play by women to keep control over their men. No, that's not what I mean! I take it back. How about this: the unsolicited attention by men towards women. It should be stated more strongly in some sense, though, as it is usually meant to indicate aggressive or excessive attention. Kind of like the attention the Boa Constructor gives toward its still-living meal as it devours it whole.

With definitional issues resolved, this problem of glomming at Caltech can be properly discussed. Some people, apparently, are very concerned about it. There is, supposedly, a "guide to glomming" (a how-to, perhaps?) that is in the works (a publication I can't wait to see, as it will probably make for some good material for this column). Whether it will be as definitive as the Dean claimed in his last column, I highly doubt; but nevertheless, it will exist, and maybe make for an entertaining read.

The problem of glomming, as I understand it, has many facets; it is also strongly interwoven with another problem that seems to trouble people at Caltech: the male/female ratio. There is the male perspective, which is basically that there simply are not enough undergraduate women at Caltech! This obviously puts a great deal of strain on the dating situation. The female perspective I can only try to understand through what has been related to me by friends.

One very logical version is that it is hard for undergraduate women at Caltech to remain single, as they want to be in relationships and are very often presented with the opportunity to enter into one. The ending of a relationship brings to mind scenes from "Shark Week" on the Discovery Channel, when a bloody piece of meat thrown in the water precipitates a feeding frenzy. Women are quickly re-opened to the attentions of men, and it does not look good for one to be continually moving between relationships. To the perspective of men at this point: when a woman becomes available, interested men often feel that they have little time to act, thanks to the ratio, and this leads to glomming.

Another feminine perspective that I find harder to understand is that glomming is simply annoying — that the attention is unwanted and deleterious. Having men watch you in your room from Hyperspace, however, could lend support to this argument. Regardless, as I see it, the phenomenon involves love to a large extent (true, most glommers may only be interested in sex, but I do not think that all men are interested only in sex, or at least I hope not).

What we call glomming is certainly a form of positive attention, and I find it hard to believe that anyone could dislike such attention. One individual showcasing affection toward another hardly seems to warrant such a vulgar term as "glomming" applied to it. I understand how a constant stream of suitors could become trying, but I do not think the problem is all that bad.

And can it be as bad as the problems that the issue brings forth for men: unrequited love and loneliness? I find it appalling that when these issues are discussed two important facts are often omitted: men have feelings, too, and love ain't nothing but sex misspelled. The double negative is important in this sentence, for those of you with slow wits or poor grammar skills! Men are not interested only in sex, but love, as well, and when one's love is unreturned, it hurts. I offer this not as an excuse for glomming, but simply another part of the problem.

By the strictest definitions, I suppose I could be considered having been guilty of glomming once, too. There was a woman here towards whom I expressed particularly strong feelings, but they were not reciprocated. I do not need an excuse for any uncomfortability I may have caused her to experience, but I am certainly not sorry for expressing such feelings. Was that glomming? I don't think so. Had I persisted further, it certainly would have been called glomming, but it also could have been called stalking! We remain friends because I did not persist.

I think the essence of the Dean's column, and the ultimate point of this one, is that you cannot force someone to love you, and you should not try to. Is that the essence of the problem of glomming? I don't know. I guess I'll just have to wait for the "definitive guide" to enlighten me.

"Welcome To Mix 'N' Match Heaven.

First off, I wanted to explain the errors regarding wrap day in my last article. As it turns out, Caltech Dining Services has three chefs call in sick this week, thus causing a delay in the cycle. Don't worry, it's coming to the North Kitchen this week.

Second, I wanted to bring up an important issue. Many students have complained recently about food shortages and other problems such as lack of syrup in the soda/drink machines. I assure you that this is not a real issue... these problems are solved weekly by simply asking anyone in the kitchen to solve it. Food is NEVER in short supply, it is just difficult for CDS employees to know exactly when any given item runs out. They will be happy to refill any item if you let them know it is necessary to do so. Open communication between staff and students will solve most of the complaints made about Caltech Dining Services, especially this one! To make these lines of communication easier, the Dining Service Handbook contains biographical sketches of all the people in CDS to whom you can turn to ask questions or comments. Please read the biographies and try to know the chef in your kitchen.

Which brings me to my third issue. I feel it is necessary to stress the importance of the Dining Service Handbook which has been received in the mail this week. This handbook contains the rules and regulations regarding your board plan and all students on board are responsible for the information it contains. Furthermore, if you have any questions concerning the handbook, please contact myself, your food rep, Patrick, orAndré.

In the next few weeks I will be highlighting important issues brought out in the handbook. Stay tuned, hopefully all of your questions will be answered here.

Until next time,

Dave Tytell
On Friday November 13, 1998, there will be a memorial in honor of Alex Rosenberg, who passed away on November 9th. The ceremony will take place at 4 p.m. on the grass mound at the South End of Winster and will conclude with refreshments which would have pleased Alex.

The Career Development Center (CDC) is looking for current gradu­
bating seniors to participate in focus groups to assess student career inter­
ests and needs. Whether you’ve de­
cided to go to grad school, get a job, don’t know yet, or haven’t even started thinking about it, the CDC would like to hear from you. Each focus group will last approximately 2 hours (refreshments will be served) and participants will re­
ceive certificates. Deb Tuttle, a Caltech alumn and intern in the CDC, will conduct the focus groups. If you are interested in voicing your opinion and making a difference, please email Deb at dereali@starbase.caltech.edu or call the CDC at x6261.

The Literature Faculty is pleased to announce the 53rd Annual McKinney Competition. The Mary A. Earl McKinney Prize is available for students for the year 1998-1999 in writing. Only full-time students of of­
icially registered at Caltech as un­
dergraduates are eligible to enter this competition. This year, prizes will be given in three categories: poetry, prose fiction, and non-fiction essays. All entries must be typewritten and double-spaced. Include your address and phone number. In the poet­
cy category, entrants may submit up to three poems. Submissions of prose fiction should not exceed 12,000 words. Essays may be one­
draft work that are best. Submissions in any of the above categories, including a self-addressed, stamped ·

covers letter, must be postmarked by January 22, 1999, or be marked by January 22, 1999, or be·

The Distinguished Speaker Series will continue with Governor Mario Cuomo on Monday, 16th at 8.00 p.m. at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

NESE Scholarships for 1999-2000
Applications for National Security Education Program (NSEP) under­
graduate scholarships are currently available for study abroad in num­
ber of top foreign countries. For information, call the Financial Aid Office. The deadline is February 15, 1999.

The California Tech
Caltech 48-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

The California Tech
Announcements

Green Card Lottery
Beginnings in October! The instructions for the 2000 Diversity Immiga­
rion Visa Lottery have been an­
nounced. The dates for this lottery are October 1 to November 30, 1999.

Mints

The Yearly Antique & Collectible Show will be held Sunday Novem­
ber 25, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Pasadena Center, 300 E. Green St., Pasadena. Over 150 vendor tables with toys and collectibles, including Star Wars, Babylon 5, Star Trek and much more.

The Los Angeles Times will be offering a $1,000 prize to the best entry in each category. For more information, call 626-485-8558.

The Nutcracker will be presented by the new Pasadena Civic Audito­
rium Foundation at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 E. Green St., on December 22nd. It is as follows: 12/22: 7:30 p.m.; 12/23 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.; 12/24 11: am; 12/25 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $21 & $56. To order by phone call Ticketmaster at 213-480-3232. For additional in­
formation call the Civic Box Office