NEW TECHNIQUES IN PROTEIN FOLDING RESEARCH

BY TECH STAFF

Considered one of the most mundane and important challenges in chemistry, the problem of protein folding still involves an aura of mystery. The problem, according to Dr. Harry Gray and Dr. Jay Winkler, both Caltech faculty, is becoming more approachable.

This past Wednesday, a special edition of Accounts of Chemical Research, a journal of the American Chemical Society, was published on the subject of protein folding. The guest editors, Gray and Winkler, devoted the issue to exploring new experimental approaches in protein folding.

The experimental techniques covered include ultrasonic mixing, laser-induced temperature jumps, photoinduced protein exchange, and laser-induced electron transfer. All four approaches are designed to trick a protein's method of folding very early in the process, reducing the time scale from milliseconds to microseconds.

SEDS WATCHES METEORS FROM JOSHUA TREE

BY LEO TORDUK

Several dozen Techers and a sprinkling of faculty and JPL employees braved the chilly clime of Joshua Tree National Park early last Tuesday morning to observe the Leonid Meteor Shower. Streams of lightning and eerie flashes from cloud-dispersed treetops elicited oohs and aahs from the crowd of onlookers, all lying on the ground huddling beneath multiple layers of blankets. Every now and then a bright fireball would blaze by, a colorful, flaming ball of molten starstuff many times larger than a normal meteor, an object both beautiful and frightening to behold.

Many students were excited by the experience, excited to see the living cosmos, to learn that nothing is ever boring about the night sky. A star, a stack of clouds marched in from the west and spelled the night. At 4 am, the

Students hold benefit auction

BY KATY ISAAC

A benefit auction for the victims of Hurricane Mitch will be held tonight, Friday, November 20th, at 7:00 p.m. in the courtyard between Ricketts and Fleming Houses. The auction is open to everyone.

All of the proceeds from the auction will go to buying things such as over-the-counter medicines, non-perishables, soap, first aid equipment, and water purification systems. These items will be shipped to Central America through World Vision, a nonprofit humanitarian relief and development organization.

Cynthia Gong thought of having an auction to benefit the hurricane victims after Hannah Cai made an announcement about donating food at the Ricketts-Ruddock dinner last Friday. The two undergraduate seniors have been getting donations and organizing the auction since early this week. "People are donating time all over the place," she said Gong.

Senior Mike Astle will be the auctioneer for the evening. Jason Sekamura, class of '98, will be doing the lighting. Graphic Arts donated their time and skill to make flyers for the event.

Additionally, Tom Mannon and CABS, local businesses, and several others have donated items to be auctioned.

The auction lot is quite extensive. It includes items such as dinner with one of many Caltech notables, gift certificates to local restaurants, packages from the Caltech Bookstore, Microsoft software, computer games, and a lot of furniture. Among the more eye-opening items is an opportunity to play in the tennis court of one of the dorms.

In the auction tonight being held for the victims of Hurricane Mitch, both Jeremiah Smith and Andrew Lencins (pictures above) are being auctioned out for a date. Mike Astle will be doing the honour of being auctioneer.

Lily Cai comes to Caltech

BY TECH STAFF

The Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company will perform a program that melds ancient Chinese techniques with contemporary dance styles on Saturday, November 21, at 8 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium. The dance company was established in 1985. Presenting a variety of classical, folk and modern dances, complemented by colorful costumes and both authentic and original music, the company has performed extensively throughout the United States and Europe. Yesterday afternoon, the company gave a workshop in Winitz Student Center as well as an evening fireside chat in the Avery Library.

Cai, a native of Shanghai and a former principal dancer with the Shanghai Opera House, is a prominent member of the San Francisco Bay area's dance community. Currently a committee member of the Bay Area Isadora Duncan Awards, she is considered a major authority and resource in Chinese dance in the Bay Area.

Another noted member of the dance company, composer Gang Sittu, was recently awarded a three-year grant as part of New Residencies, a national program of Meet The Composer.

This program is supported, in part, by funds from the California Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Caltech attends ACM Competition

BY TECH STAFF

Last Saturday, November 14, Caltech sent two teams to the regional ACM programming contest. Team "Boris," placing third, was comprised of Michael Pruett, Yanis Inbar, and Tudor Bosman. Team "Natalia" placed eighth with team members Wesley Tanaka, Aaron Denney, and Victor Huang.

This year's contest, hosted by Santa Barbara City College, was attended by teams from the entire Southern California region, which includes Hawaii and parts of Nevada. The first place winner was Harvey Mudd's "Team 42," with California Polytechnic State University placing second in the competition.

CDS to hold Vegan meeting

BY DAVID TELL AND SEANED STORMAN

On Monday, November 23, Caltech Dining Services will hold an open meeting about vegetarian and vegan food on the board program. The meeting will be held in Room 1 in Winitz Student Center at four in the afternoon.

Vegetarians and vegans on the board have raised concerns ranging from nutritional content to food contamination. The meeting is to get a consensus among vegans and the board's vegetarian and vegan food.

Michael Prsett, a vegan on CDS board, expressed his feelings that "it's just for the board to have convictions on what they will or won't eat. I have many vegans on the board are this goal."

At the meeting, CDS plans to review the menu, including pricing and subtracting items and modifying existing items.

Still, not many vegetarians and vegans have expressed much hope for change. Many have expressed the desire to only be served on the request board until their requested changes are met.

The meeting is open to all interested parties, including undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff.

The Usual Stuff

Letter to the Editor...

More Caucus Surveys of hope change...

ASCIT Minutes...

Media Guy...

Color Ad...

In This Issue

The ASCIT Movie this week will be Dangerous Liaisons.

Baxter Lecture Hall, tonight, 7:30 and 10.

Please see more on page 3.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH
David Alexander Rosefield's Eulogy

A memorial service was held for David "Alex" Rosefield last Friday, November 13th. David was killed on September 20th while returning to Caltech.

Students, faculty, and administrators attended the event, along with members of Alex's family. Dennis Revel and Brennan, as well as Alex's mother, father, and sister spoke. Alex's father, Stephen Rosefield, pictured above, delivered this eulogy at his funeral and at the memorial service.

I want to stand up for my son Dave, whose memory may be dimmed in the recesses of some people's minds because he chose to experiment with explosives, and in this way may appear to be responsible for his own death. This line of reasoning is specious because it disregards the inherent riskiness of all life's choices, and the lethality of low probability events that inevitably threaten all of us in our daily pursuits. Dave didn't die because he chose to be a chemist, or was too inquisitive, reckless, or imprudent; he died because on September 20, 1998 he was catastrophically unlucky. Reflection on other forces which cast Dave in harm's way confirm that he was a tragic victim of circumstance. Dave was an audacious intellect who rationally took risks which others might perceive as unwise in order to actualize his potential and live out the full meaning of his life. Dave's approach to living was a deeply contemplated and existential choice, not a lapse of judgement, or a romantic enthusiasm.

To understand David properly, it is essential to recognize that he was a prodigy and an insatiably curious, open-minded renaissance young man; a person of discernment, witty with refined taste, an artist, and athlete living in a time when genius, sensitivity and good heartedness weren't sufficient to discover truth and construct a worthy existence. He learned early on that he had to be disciplined, tireless and audacious to push the frontiers that interested him because nothing of lasting value could be accomplished by taking the easy way out. This attitude was best expressed in his choice of Caltech. Dave explained to me that he could go to Brown, excel, coast and amuse himself, or he could test the limits of his genius. The first option wasn't viable. He couldn't accept the possibility that he wouldn't accomplish as much as many of David's professors have shared their belief that Dave was a once-in-a-decade student (at Caltech), a revolutionary and irrepressible intellect who surely would have made major contributions to science. I have no doubt that they are right, just as I fully accept the testimony of those who disclosed how profoundly he touched them with his enigmatic spirit, his loving nature, warm compassion, vitality and humanity. Standing up for my son is easy because he was so fine. He was a joy, and an inspiration, a hope for the future, and as so many of his friends have confided, their hero and mine.

I had long been aware that Dave might be snatched away prematurely. The very virtues which justified any father's love and pride put him at risk, and experience taught me to be wary of too much good fortune.

In the event, I can only lament that his goodness didn't earn him a better reward. There is no justice in an exuberant, youthful soul prudently conducting a scientific experiment being victimized by an improbability. If there is any solace it is this: Dave always displayed the insight, wisdom and courage to construct a curving, exulting, productive and virtuous life, and in so doing was an inspiration to many. While he was prevented by fate from completing his valiant mission, his example will surely help those who knew him to become more than they might believe they could be. I know this is true because of Dave, and continues to be the foundation of my own inspiration.

Stephen Rosefield

Dessert with the MOSH
at Steele House
355 S. Holliston

Thursday, December 3, 1998
10-12pm

Come Early

The California Tech
The California Tech

November 20, 1998

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Christian View of the Matt Shepard Case

We would like to clarify some issues raised by recent events referred to in the Deans corner two weeks ago, as we read in the letter by Dule Misive three weeks ago. A young man, Matthew Shepard, was brutally murdered in Wyoming because he was gay. A group of people calling themselves a church picketed his funeral carrying signs saying "God hates fags." This was a senseless and hurtful act of stupid meanness. These misguided people are not representative of the beliefs and accepted practices of the Christian faith. We would like to dispel the misconception that true Christians hate homosexuals. We would also like to provide a more balanced look at the true stand of the Biblical Christian faith.

As Christians, we believe all murder is wrong, and that what was done to Matt Shepard was unquestionably murder. It was absolutely evil, unjustifiable, inexcusable, and sinful, as are all murders. Murder can be the result of greed, jealousy, lust, or hatred. In fact, the Bible clearly states that hatred is tantamount to murder. The picketing of the funeral clearly demonstrates hate, and in some cases it can be defined as murder. On their signs they claimed support from Romans 9:13, which has no reference to homosexuality, and was blatantly misquoted, as the Dean correctly pointed out. In spite of this, it appears that some, the Dean included, still see the picketers as part of the Christian Church.

A great deal of the problem is that many people, when they think of Christians, think of radical hypocrites such as the Westboro Baptist Church. In the same way, many Christians, when they think of homosexuals, think of militants like ACT UP, who openly proclaim their hate for Christians, advocate terrorist violence, and disrupt worship services with hateful obscenities (as has happened to one of the authors). Yet most gays are not like that. Because both sides tend to see only the stereotypical, hate filled, and unrepresentative in the other side, real communication on the issue has been stifled.

Professed "Christians" who advocate prejudice and violence, who bomb abortion clinics, harass gays, and in general, engage in hate in the name of God, do not truly practice or even understand the Christian faith.

It is acceptable to say that something is sin, but not to be hypocritical and hateful about it. All people face the problem of sin in their lives. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). If the pastor of the Westboro Baptist Church wanted to fight sin, he should have looked to himself first. We believe it is Gods place to judge sinners, not ours. Without the

Public innovations to the Coffeehouse menu include Rice Crispie treats, muffins, hand-packed hamburgers, California rolls, and cucumber rolls.

The Coffeehouse is also looking into providing Daihatsu delivery from eight to ten, and Autumn Loopjen, ASCIT's Upperclassman Director-at-Large, is actively looking for a television for the Coffeehouse.

Still Trying to Squeak By Without a New Computer?

Don’t Wait Any Longer. Our Low-Cost Technology Loans are Down to...

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Adam Villani: Media Guy

Happy Days by Samuel Beckett

There’s some stunning theater work going on in Santa Ana right now, courtesy of my co-worker Dave Barton, Artistic Director of the Rude Gutsrella Theater Company and director of their current production of Samuel Beckett’s Happy Days. Not to be confused with the long-running sitcom of the same name, Happy Days is a seventy minute near-monologue by a woman, Winnie (Susan Shearer-Smith), half-buried in a giant mound of trash and in giggly denial of her pointless, monotonous life. Central to the tension in this piece are the rare grunts and outbursts from her near-comatose husband Willie (Barton).

As can be expected, it is something of a daunting task to sit through such a long monologue by a near-immobile protagonist. But don’t be afraid to let your mind wander; the stream-of-consciousness nature of her speech alleviates any comprehension problems caused by inattentiveness.

Don’t take that in the wrong way; Winnie’s absent-mindedness, repetition, and naivete create their impact more from the play as a whole rather than from any specific moment save for the wrenching ending. This is challenging but rewarding stuff. Fridays and Saturdays at 8, Sundays at 7 through Dec. 6. At the Empire Theater at the corner of Broadway and 2nd Street, Santa Ana. (714) 547-4688. $12 general, $10 seniors and students.

The California Tech

Features

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Auction...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

items are a date with Andy Lau, an auction with Jeremiah Smith, a diabat su for-a-day and a box of 1,000 condoms.

Caltech is a non-profit organization so the auction cannot be officially advertised outside of the Caltech community. However, Gong is hoping that word-of-mouth will draw more people to the auction. “You should tell all your friends, all your friends‘ friends, all the alumni and all the staff,” she said.

Hurricane Mitch, the deadliest Atlantic hurricane since 1780, devastated Central America in October and early November. It is estimated that up to 70% of the crops and 90% of the roads were damaged or destroyed. Honduras and Nicaragua especially have been struck with critical water, food, and medicine shortages.

Gong urges those not participating in the auction to donate non-perishables, blankets, soup, first aid supplies, or other relief items or to send money through The Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders.

ACM...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

University’s “Cal Poly Gold” team coming in second. Both first and second place winners will advance to the finals round on April 8-12, 1999, in Eindhoven, The Netherlands.

Aaron Denney, one of the organizers, remarked that the problems were not as difficult as in past years, and that the small details tripped people up this year. This comment was echoed by Michael Pruett, who recalls being told that no one had ever finished all six questions before. All of the top three teams finished all six questions this year.

Denney also explained that this year’s Caltech contestants were chosen with a local mini-competition in the style of the ACM competition. Denney explained that the contest was not as well publicized as it should have been, so not as many people showed up.

Last year Caltech placed second in the regionals and advanced to the finals, where they placed seventeenth.

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Swimmers Open Season

By MAUREEN BURL and GERALD PALMOS

The Caltech women's varsity volleyball team played their last match of the season against long time rival L.I.F.E. Bible College on Oct. 29th. It was an exciting match with Caltech winning in four games, 6-15, 15-10, 15-7, 15-4. The ladies fired up and came out strong, taking the second game 15-10. They were unstoppable after that and took games three and four easily.

Dominika Rytwinska had a stellar match, leading in kills with 12, and in digs with 17. Jennifer Fong had an incredible serving game, serving for 23 points with 3 ace serves. Fong also had 12 digs and 6 kills. Barbara Kraatz and Karen Lam put up a wall with three blocks each. Senior Hanna Cai played well with 5 kills, 8 service points, and 13 digs, and senior Leigh Engen put up a strong block in the middle front as well. Engen was a motivating force all season in her role as co-captain along with sophomore Jenni Fong. Corinne Gilliam, a senior and first-year varsity player, came off the bench as a defensive specialist and had 4 digs and 2 service points.

The varsity squad held their end-of-season banquet on Nov. 14th at Buca Di Beppo with good food and good friends. Season-ending awards, voted on by team members, went to Dominika Rytwinska (Most Valuable Player), Sophia Xiang (Most Improved Player), and Karen Lam and Jennifer Fong (Most Inspirational Players).

The Lady Beavers broke four school records this season, which is especially impressive. Please see Volleyball on page 4.

Men's Volleyball Season ends with exciting game and broken records

BY TIM RAUB

The Men's and Women's Cross-Country teams saved the day. Both teams set new marks this fall, setting up a highly anticipated showdown for the SCIAC title. Freshmen Phyllis Chen and Emma Huang have been anticipating the largest turnout in the history of the sport led by co-captains Arjun Mendiratta and Paul Ferris. The team returning the place to be over the next month with exciting races and strong races. Coaches Simon and Joseph pointed to Track season, with its finish on Saturday, the Caltech distance squad proved it can run with anybody in the Conference. With returning weightmen and a new core of sprinters expected to help out the distance men and women, this year's Track and Field team could be the strongest in years. If you're not slow and you don't smell, Track Coach Joyce Jingle wants YOU to come out and run track. If you're slow and you smell, you can still be a thrower.

Harriers Bring Season to a Flying Finish

BY TIM RAUB

The Men's and Women's Cross-Country teams saved the best for last this fall, turning in eye-popping performances at the NCAA Div. III Western Regional last Saturday. The men finished ninth in the Regional, but their team finished 11th as a whole. The Lady Beavers ran past La Verne and Occidental to garner their top SCIAC finish of the year as well.

Running in packs, the men's team placed three runners, Adrian Seymour, Arjun Mendiratta, and senior Conrad (Goose) Ziesler in the 27 and low-28 minute range. If the meet had been scored by conference, all three athletes would have earned All-Conference status, and Seymour would have merit first-team honors.

The rest of Caltech's pack rattled off their season's final grueling, spit-on-théré-chin, bloody-blister five miles of glory in somewhat slower times, but personal improvements across the board were still significant. Freshmen Tim Rany and Karen Higa placed fourth and fifth for the Beavers, whilst senior Tom Collier ran a personal record in his last race. Freshman Zach Morris rounded out the men's squad.

Minus captain Phyllis Chen, the women harriers still ran the races of their season, dropping minutes to overtake Occidental, which showed up depleted and 'mentally beaten (really!). Amy Kelly and Paula Whitten went out hard, and although the field soon caught up managed to die with dignity, leading the Beavers to their outstanding finish. Aimee Pierce, Tory Sturgeon, Caroline O'blike, Sarah Cooke also finished their seasons with
10. Were you given any advice on how to rank the Houses? 
NA Y N 3 40 184
11. Did you give every House a fair chance? 
NA Y N 1 168 58
12. Did you feel that you were being judged or evaluated during the House receptions? 
NA Y N 3 106 118
13. Did you participate in Rotation this year (upperclassmen only)? 
NA Y N 67 137 23
14. Roughly how many freshmen did you get to know well enough to know whether you wanted them to be in your House or not (upperclassmen only)? 
NA A Few -1/2 All 83 96 36 12
15. How restrictive do you think the Rotation Rules are (1-5, 1-Not at all, 5-Very)? 
NA 1 2 3 4 5 2 4 10 93 59 29
16. How reasonable is each rule and should it change? Houses are specifically prohibited from doing the following during rotations:
a. making a trophy or alley challenge 11, 16,
b. publishing a social calendar or relating in any fashion future social events 16,
c. organizing and sponsoring a social event 16,
d. attending a reception of a House of which you are not a member without the permission of the House's president 16,
e. discussing with new students anything at all to do with picking strategies, future new student picks, or past new student picks 16,
f. spending money on a new student or providing extraordinary goods or services on credit or for no charge 16,
g. providing transportation for a new student beyond Old Pasadena except when required for athletic training 16,
h. providing alcohol or other controlled substances to a new student 16,
i. getting a new student a date 16,
j. otherwise unfairly biasing a new student toward or against a house 16,
k. Aside from the specifically unauthorized acts, Houses may do anything approved by the IHC in advance of the act 16,
l. Information pertaining to the ranking of each student and to the order of the picks may not be made public. All such information in written or electronic form must be destroyed immediately following picks.

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17. How effective do you think the rules are in preventing the freshmen from being unfairly biased? (1-Not at all, 5-Very) 
NA 1 2 3 4 5 9 60 75 71 80
18. How effective do you think the rules are in preventing the Houses from going to extremes in recruiting the freshmen? 
NA 1 2 3 4 5 4 9 60 75 71 80
19. Did you know this year's IHC's interpretation of the "No-Gag Rule"? 
NA Y N 2 168 57
20. What describes your knowledge of the Picks Procedure? 
NA Don't Do (gone to Picks) Do (haven't gone to Picks) 5 131 42 49
21. Have you ever committed a Rotation Violation? 
NA Y N 6 30 191
22. Do you think that the Picks Procedure should be made public? 
NA Y N 9 82 176
23. Are you satisfied with the way in which Rotation is carried out? 
NA Y N 10 149 68
Procedings of the ASCIT BoD Shin-Dig, 16 November 1998

This document is not an official proceeding of the ASCIT Board of Directors.

Present: BoD (minus Devi, Rob, Steve, Jaideep)

Everybody finally gets their crap in order at 11:15.

Attention Admissions office: "Kevin Ritchburg wants more gay men - and good ones - not like the shit we have now." Alan Rosenwinkel

Mike Davies was supposed to be here to request funding for a party. A quorum of the BoD is not present so we can't allocate money anyway. That's no excuse, though. You suck, Mike. The Corporation is displeased.

Officer Reports Autumn

Motorpool doesn't want the van but they are willing to sell it for us. Autumn is gonna find out where the Housing Office gets their TV's.

Hanna Fleming has yet to pay for renting the ASCIT lights. Page got the lights from Fleming and also owes the big bucks.

Kevin Ritchburg wants more gay men - and good ones - not like the shit we have now.

Devi (in absentia) The memorial service went well. There was good attendance at the CAPSI dinner and Devi will be processing the information that came out of that meeting. The Faculty Advisors Committee will be meeting with the Deans on Tuesday. The ARC will meet on Thursday. On Friday, the ARC will harass people on the Olive Walk in an effort to find relevant topics for the Student/Faculty conference next year.

Jaideep (in absentia) Those survey results didn't make it into the Tech last week. [Ed. note: See page 2 of last week's Tech. See also page 6 of this week's Tech.]

Rob (in absentia) Flack City, USA.

Mike That non-affiliated mailing list will be available soon.

Alan The BoC opening business meeting is getting closer. Get those rotten tomatoes ready.

Baldeep The Leader gave the Junior Class officers a quick kick in the butt. He is setting up a meeting with some folks from APE to see if we can make use of their new information infrastructure.

ASCIT officially recognizes GSC as an acronym. An exchange of ambassadors will take place soon.

Meeting totally abandoned at 11:20.

Screw you, Mike D. Astle

ASCIT Secretary

Opportunities available for people on work study to earn more money.

ThinkQuest, competition for High School students creating educational web pages, would like some volunteers for there semi-finalists competition. People are needed Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 20th-22nd from 8:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. If interested, contact Andrew at hafeet@its.

Again, work study equals money!

We will be having another Noon Concert this Friday in front of the Red Door Cafe. The Y will be collecting money to help Hurricane Relief in Central America. Right now, the relief group has a lot of food to send and no funding to get it there. So contribute a dollar to a good cause and stop by and listen to live music.

If you're interested in getting involved with the Y, we meet at Steele House at 12:15 p.m. every Monday. Come join us! Everyone is welcome.

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The Cruise tours philosophy, New York City

by Justin Ho

The Cruise
Not Rated—but does contain a bit of foul language and a guy opening an emergency fire door when he shouldn't.

My apologies for picking another artsy-indie flick, but given the competition from new release blockbuster-wannabes Meet Joe Black (2 hours and 50 minutes of death-becomes-Brad Pitt thumping entertainment) and I Still know what you did Last Summer (gory, mindless slashers part two where you know that Brandy and Jennifer Love Hewitt HAVE to survive because of mass media appeal), I'd pick the histrionic on the New York City Tour Bus any day.

A brief blurb on the two big releases though: EW's critical mass, a panel of Siskel & Ebert, the two Knight-Ridder Syndicate reviewers, a USA Today guy, and the movie person from Entertainment Weekly itself, gave an average B- (haha people not on pass-fail) for Joe Black and a D to I Still Know What You Did Last Summer. Speaking of which, since the failed murder of hook slasher Ben Willis the had his hand chopped off by some pugly on a fishing rig and supposedly died because his body was never found) happened two years ago, the title is a bit of a misnomer. Also, savvy geography bee-ers should know the capital of Brazil ain't Rio.

Now, back to the Cruise. Imagine the bald math guy from Pi with superfluous wavy hair, and a flair for the philosophical, sometimes poetic, with a side of SAT vocabulary. Same city, similar affluence to Indiana, but while Max the math genius sees math everywhere, Tim Levitch sees a battlefield between the "cruse" and the "anti-cruse." Levitch's job as a city guide for a tour bus is a manifestation of the "cruse", pure liberation and the pursuit of self-realization. In his self-analysis the city comes up more often than not, so getting a free ride on top of the double-decker bus to let his mind wander is conducive to his mental health. Likewise, sharing a deep feeling of the city with Big Apple sojourners is part of the liberation/anti-job that is his "cruse." Restrictive conformity to any aspect of civilization, on the other hand, like giving into the abusive city grid pattern which viciously confines people to walk in 90 degree angles constitutes "anti-cruse." Road blocks and stop signs which restrict the freedom of human mobility (a.k.a. you're not allowed to do something you may or may not want to do) are likewise objects of "anti-cruse".

Believe me, he's not on crack—he's like this through the whole movie. But, it's always nice to justify "running from the cops" as an evasion of the inherently evil "anti-cruse" properties of incarceration.

The 80 minutes of movie foliage comprise a nice documentation of the philosophical idiosyncracies of the Yankee Kosmos Kramer/Thomas Paine hybrid, 28-year old Timothy "Speed" Levitch. As he skis along on top of his double-decker bus, he presents an intense, unique picture of concrete-laden New York City. Broadway is the "original, dysfunctional vein of Manhattan," rather than a street. Central Park, in its natural glory, is a rather artificial construct of 2,000 new trees, 10 million tons of imported top soil, and 140 miles of drainage pipes. Simply jaded comments to make about your hometown, but the Speed actually isn't. He simply sees New York on a totally different plane.

Imagine a philosopher who sees a beautiful flower in his monologues directly to the camera, he doesn't lose sight of the average audience, who might get lost in his louquacious opinions of... whatever. He easily makes the transition from genius poet to Joe Average when he converses with co-workers. A heartwarming conversation with his bus driver of several years ensures when he realizes that their pairing will be disrupted. Levitch has spent so much of his life finding a humane, beautiful aspect in everything around him, and attempting to induce reciprocal feelings of respect that there is no denying that he is at peace. For a few moments, Levitch confronts all his past abusers with a candidness which is sometimes humorous, sometimes pitiful, but ultimately creating a sense of serenity. As a prescription for enjoying his existence, Levitch spends his last moments of the film spinning around in the plaza between the World Trade Center buildings. Afterward, he lies down and allows the splendor of the buildings to overwhelm him. The meaning of this childish maneuver is simply to assert his happy state of being. He is in a place where he understands, and is likewise understood.

The movie is definitely entertaining, and, given that it was derived from 100 hours of home video footage, praiseworthy. Unfortunately, it's rather esoteric in nature, and not a necessity. Rating—*** (I'm still using stars until the end of pass-fail second term)

If not for your sake, then for their...

The Moot

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It's a dangerous world out there. There's just not much you can do when some demented, acetone wielding maniac decides to take public vengeance on you.

Or is there?

You can take control!
You can take some action!

You can...

Write for the Tech!
middle of a steeplechase with a wonderful bit of narration and takes us with him as he sees his friend riding ahead of him fall and be killed. Convinced that the accident was contrived, Davidson gets himself in fairly deep as things get even bloodier.

There's no shortage of violence, but none of it seems really gratuitous. There is also a very satisfying romantic subplot.

Dave Barry Turns 50
Dave Barry

A long-time reader of this column might note that I seem to be quite a Dave Barry fan. If they cared, I am, I find his stuff almost endlessly hilarious and I have memorized almost every book he has written. He is in fine form here, even if it is geared towards aging boomers and not college students.

So what happened to the other two stars? The problem is that Barry spends about half of the book dwelling on something that is sort of a pet peeve of mine: pretentious boomer vanity. It is a year or two before break-down of 1947 to 1974 told from that not-quite-unique-enough perspective.

It is funny, and at least he doesn't take himself seriously. But he does take the rest of his generation's adolescence seriously, and that's a mistake. Just about everyone who was born after 1960 is sick beyond words of hearing about how significant and important these people were. As if cutting classes and looking confused did more for the civil rights movement than all of the people (mostly non-boomers) who actually worked and risked and sacrificed to really change things.

I could go on, but I'm drifting already. Apart from that, it's a really funny book with lots of jokes about aging and death and a great running gag concerning someone named "Buffalo Bob".

...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BROUGHT A RING UNLESS THAT'S PETER. WHAT? 

THE CAFE A STAND ON THE MENU? IT'S IN THE WHITE AND LIKE THIS. IF Printed EIGHT HOURS LATER A WISE. 

IF I MADE IT TO THE WOMAN.I WOULD HAVE A SLOW-WITTED HARD DRIVE!!

I CAME TO STRAIGHTEN MY SOOS AGAIN!

OKAY.

THAT'S FASCINATING. YOU SHOULD SHOW IT TO WALLY. IT WOULD HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON HIM.

WELL, I AM NOT.. NOT FOR MY SLOW-WITTED CO-WORKERS.

I'M FEELING MUCH HEALTHIER. SINCE I STRAPPED ALL OF THESE MAGNETS TO MY BODY...

I'M GOING TO TEACH MORON'S HOW TO GET HIGH-LEVEL JOBS.

I'M ADDICTED TO JABBING.

NOW TURN YOUR EAR CLOCKWISE TO GET YOUR TONGUE BACK IN.

IT'S A HARD DRIVE!!

THEN WE NEED TO PULL THE SDF AND GET THE REST TO THE EOC.

ARE YOU OUR NEW CTO OR A BARRING IDIOT WHO JUST PROMISED TO WANDER BY?

WOW! FIVE PAGES WITHOUT USING A PERIOD.

YOU'RE PLANNING TO MAKE CRITICAL BUDGET DECISIONS BASED ON THAT?

WE MUST DEVELOP KNOWLEDGE OPTIMIZATION STRATEGIES TO LEVERAGE OUR KEY LEARNINGS.

IRONICALLY. THE BEST WAY IS TO BECOME AN EXPERT IN SOMETHING CALLED "KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT."
Once upon a time not so long ago there was a young man who had everything going for him. He was bright, he was quick. He was warm and had a bright smile. He had friends galore, here and elsewhere, he was a member of one house, and many friends in others.

And yet this young man is no longer here, leaving behind his pining friends and the bright future which seemed to lay ahead of him. He left behind so many for whom he had become a source of joy, of warmth, of fellowship. And why? I really don't know why. It must have been the danger of the thing, risking something that few others do, the excitement of doing something unusual.

But is it really so esoteric, so special a feat? After all, recipes for making the explosive that took him away are easily found on the web, along with reasonably disingenuous warnings about the perils. I say disingenuous, because, had the author truly believed what he wrote, he should not have bothered to place the recipes on the web in the first place.

I quote, including grammatical errors and all: "It is highly friction sensitive and extreme care should be taken to avoid this. Acetone peroxide is one of the most sensitive explosive substances known to man. Great care would be needed to handle this explosive carefully.

CAUTION: Acetone peroxide one of the most sensitive explosive known to man. This composition is dangerous and would need to be handled by someone with a lot of common sense. Great care would be needed to ensure the safety of the manufacturer due to the high sensitivity of the acetone peroxide. These dried crystals would be ready to load into detonators for immediate use as the storage stability is not very good."

It was a catastrophe to lose our friend, for us here, the profits, the deans, the staff, for his friends and parents. It is a catastrophe not only because we lost a companion, but because losing him is such a waste of potential achievement.

Now you'll ask, why does the Dean carry on so, we know all that, we know, we know what we are doing, none of the warnings really apply to us, we are cautious, knowledgeable, able to handle this, of course. Well I'll tell you why. One of the things that happened last weekend, barely more than a day after the Memorial to Alex, is that someone made an explosive device which detonated in front of the Beckman Institute. Now I have no clue as to who did this, I have no reason to believe it was a Techer's way to express himself. I have no reason to believe that Alex's Memorial and the metallic sodium explosion and fire were related in any way.

In fact, there seems to be general and genuine ignorance of the weekend incident in the student population; in other words, not a great likelihood that anyone from Caltech was involved. After the trauma of Alex's death, though, I need to tell you all, quoting from the Psalms: It is vanity. Vanity and a misplaced belief.

1. That one is catastrophe-proof.
2. That it is cool.
3. That you know better.

But please look at the consequences of the Beckman Institute interlude: Several fire companies responded, because fires and explosions of unknown origin at a school, could have meant something very serious. We are most grateful for that.

Since it was not immediately obvious what was happening a Hazardous Materials Team was also dispatched to the scene, and of course the Police department had a detachment there as well. As has been said before the use or possession of explosives is unlawful.

The people responsible for this will be accused of committing a felony. Lucky that there was not a "real" fire or emergency in the city at the same time. The prank did occupy enough of the Fire Department that there might have been a major emergency elsewhere, someone else might have been injured as a result.

So what is so bright about any of this? Only the flash.

A bientot

Jean-Paul Revel
A charter auction to benefit the victim of Hurricanes Wilma in Central America and appliance sales available in the Fellowship and Scholarship Office. You can also apply applications on the Web. Attention Seniors: Hard copies of the DOD fellowship are available in the Fellowship and Scholarship Office. You should bring your checkbook or your social security numbers. The fellowship fund available.

**NSEP Scholarships for 1999-2000**

Applications for National Security Education and Development Fellowship Program or NSDEG. It has nothing at all to do with government service and is available to students who have U.S. citizenship should apply. The application receipt deadline is January 30, 2000. Contact: Laura Stolper, Director, Fellowships, Awards and Resource Office. MCA 25-28

The American Chemical Society/PPG Scholarships are for incoming freshmen interested in a career in chemistry or biochemistry. Scholarships are renewable if initial eligibility criteria are maintained through undergraduate study. Applications must be post the deadline. A maximum of $5,200 for each academic year. Applications are available in the Fellowship and Scholarship Office. The deadline is January 15, 1999.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Society for Experimental Stress Analysis (AESF) is now accepting applications for the 1999-2000 academic year who are interested in mechanical engineering and related technology. To apply, visit the annual callout form. For more information, call 1-800-706-3131 or visit the fellowship office: 5800 Amsterdam Avenue. Fellows are eligible for $2,500 for undergraduate students and $3,500 for graduate students for the 1999-2000 academic year. Applications must be post the deadline. A maximum of $5,200 for each academic year. Applications are available in the Fellowship and Scholarship Office. The deadline is January 15, 1999.

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