**Convenience store gains dry cleaning**

BY MATT TISCARDO

The Caltech Convenience Store, located at the west end of the Chandler Dining Hall, added a dry cleaning service on December 7. The Convenience Store, which opened September 21 in the former site of the now-expanded Red Door Cafe, provides food items and personal items at competitive prices, just a few steps from the Student Houses.

The newest member of the Caltech community is Talin Mangioglu. She is the proprietor of Tip Top Cleaners, which has been a fixture on South Lake Avenue for 48 years.

Originally from Turkey, Mrs. Mangioglu comes from a family with a dry cleaning tradition going back three generations. Her parents, grandparents, siblings and other relatives own several cleaning establishments across Los Angeles, the Valley, and Orange. Mrs. Mangioglu has been part of the Pasadena community for 18 years.

"I am truly looking forward to working even more closely with Caltech," she says. "We have always put the highest priority on serving our customers, including many from the Caltech community. Since we don't advertise, our business primarily comes by word of mouth from satisfied customers."

Full dry cleaning services are now available, with pants at $2.25, sweaters at $3.00, sport coats at $3.50, and laundry shirts at $1.25. Coupons will begin appearing in the Student News as a promotion giving free dry cleaning after 10 visits. Office delivery may be available in the future, but for now all orders must be purchased directly by Convenience Store employees. Mrs. Mangioglu, or an employee, drives on campus every weekday morning to pick up the day's orders.
Fencers stab opponents with their steely knives

By Tim Raub

"Fencing is the art of poking someone with a sword when they don't want you to," testifies a Caltech swashbuckler.

The Men's and Women's Fencing teams, generally among the most heralded and successful intercollegiate programs at Tech, have established themselves as formidable opponents in the nation. The teams have won some matches while losing others to USC, UCSD, UCLA, and UC Santa Barbara. The most important tournaments occur later in February and March.

There are three different fencing styles used in competition—epee, foil, and saber. Epee and foil are stabbing contests, while sabers slash each other.

In epee, fencers may touch each other anywhere on the body, whereas in foil and saber they must keep their weapons above the waist. In foil and saber, whoever initiates an attack has "right-of-way" over the other opponent, whereas in epee either epeeist can score a point for a "touch." Matches are played to fifteen touches.

If you attend a fencing practice, you may hear random Tcherts shouting "En garde!" (meaning, "get ready, I'm going to jab you with my weapon"). "Touch" (meaning, "Take that, punk!") or occasionally "Voilà!" (meaning, "wow, don't look mattch!"").

Contrary to popular belief, fencers almost never shout these epithets when they fight, though, since it is against the rules to talk while fencing.

Also, you're not allowed to project your shadow onto the wall and you don't get any extra points for etching a "Z" in your opponent's butt. But it does look dashing!

Meet new friends, shmoove with friends, take a break from your studies, and have some fun, you deserve it!

Friday, January 8th in the Steele house (where the Y is located) at 6 PM! FREE!!!
Break is over. That's right... welcome back to another fun-filled term of hending over and — well, you know. Fished, I hope you're not in despair yet. Even if you have 4 of your 5 classes (some more, some less). That's about 40 assignments per term, give or take a few depending on the classes. Add to that tests, reading, lecture, and studying, and that's a hell of a lot of work, even for people taking relatively light loads!

By the end of the term, most people are tired and just want a break, but instead, they get a final for most of their classes, which would probably count highly toward their final grade (some classes 50% or more). It's like running a marathon, thinking you've got another lap until the end, then realizing that you really have another 10 miles to go! But this, I have observed that many people just don't want to do much studying at the end. Many don't care all that much about grades, so they don't study enough, don't do as well as they could on their finals, and get a lower GPA. In fact, finals seem to be one of the primary causes of low grades at Tech. Does this happen to you? I know I've felt that way, as have others I've spoken to.

What is really the point of a final, anyway? I guess the answer is to see if students have learned the material in the class comprehensively. That's certainly important, but there are other ways to accomplish this that are not so stressful on the students. My favorite is to give shorter tests throughout the term, each of which test cumulative knowledge in the course. By the end, the test would be like a "final" but it would not count toward so large a percentage of your grade, as there would be other, equally weighted tests in your average, as well.

This is much less stressful for students, as one test will not determine so much of your score, so there is less pressure to cram in everything from the course in the last week. I think such a system would also help students learn the material better. If they were tested a few times a term, instead of once, they would have more time to study for each individual class, instead of having to study for all of them at the end of a term. And if the tests are cumulative, they won't just study last week's material, but previous material, as well. By the end, they should really understand most of the material in a course. But this will never happen, so why delude ourselves?

On a happier note, I was very pleased with the Physics 2 instructors, and discovered that feedback sometimes does get listened to! As many of you know, there was a strange policy in Ph 2a (apparently a long-standing one), that students could only use a set number of pages of hand-written notes to assist them on the test. It was some limbo state between closed and open book, and many people didn't think it was very fair. After last term's final, which did a good job of illustrating why that policy isn't fair, I sent an email to my TA about it (and a few other things, but they're unimportant to this story). Instead of just ignoring my comments, which many core classes do, I got a real response from my TA, and we discussed the point some. Beyond that, the staff discussed it, as well, and decided to change the policy for Ph 2b! That at, that I was happily surprised, as I am sure many others will be. The moral of the story: feedback is taken seriously, at least sometimes, so it doesn't hurt to give it.

With that, I wish everyone a good second term. Good luck to all!

Jason Meltzer is a sophomore. Comments can be mailed to Jason@1@its.
Well well well, it’s a new year and a whole new edition of a column that refuses to do 1) the best of 1998 and 2) what to look for in 1999. Instead, I like to continue a tradition I call Ron’s Resolutions.

In 1999, I resolve to wait until someone else buys a copy of Prince’s 1999. Because I don’t want to be stuck with it any other time.

I resolve to make fun of Vanilla Ice on principle. “Ice Ice Baby.” What he is trying to do, ride the recent wave of those hard-core metal-hit-hop bands like Rage Against the Machine and Korn. It’s old, Ice T did it long ago, the last thing we need is Yo Vanilla doing it now. It’s a shame too. I finally memorized all the words to that awful song.

I resolve to look at what’s playing in Europe, because it’s usually tres chic to listen to, but not PC enough to play on the radio. “Horny” is a good example. Of course, Europe isn’t the only place to hear cool tunes, but the waves from the Old Country are probably the most accessible, with Japan being next.

I resolve to update my collection of the classics. With Paul’s Boutique by The Beastie Boys, Automatic for the People by REM, and The Low End Theory by a Tribe Called Quest all tucked away, it’s time to add Some Great Reward and Violator by Depeche Mode and Three Feet High and Rising by De La Soul. Catelyn also probably wants me to listen to more Ani DiFranco and Heda probably will suggest Liz Phair. Paul will add Soul Coughing and Pink Floyd to that list, but I certainly feel that some bands are more classic than others.

I resolve to increase my collection of broken relationship songs. Yep, it’s that time of year again. People have time to go home and reassess things and then come back, and create more uncomfortable rifts. Welcome to January, folks. My favorite albums in this category include Fashion Nugget by Caan and Little Earthquakes by Tori Amos. “Ooh, these little earthquakes/don’t take much to rip us into pieces.”

I resolve to listen to Y107 more than KROQ, because they’re starting to get MTV-ized: the same ten songs, fifteen times a day for three months. Man, funk dat.

I resolve not to buy the Double Live by Garth Brooks. My man Garth might be keeping it real for his homesies on the street, thus becoming the best selling artist of all time. But that just means that he won’t feel it when I walk right past the display. At press time, though, DMX’s new album Flesh of My Flesh Blood of My Blood dethroned Double Live, only reinforcing the resurgence of rap on the music scene. By the way, you’re sorely missing out if you don’t have Lauryn Hill’s album or Wyclef Jean’s album. (Hill’s you probably know, Wyclef Jean’s album is entitled The Carnival).

I resolve to not skip any classes and go really good grades and go on to a distinguished career. Then again, maybe that Prince album isn’t all that bad.
**Welcome back everyone. This is Dave Tytell, IHC food chair here to report on all the goings on with the Caltech Board Program. Since this is the beginning of the term, there isn't much to report. However, here's what's going on. First off, with Ramadan upon us, Caltech Dining Services would like to remind students that the kosher/halal board plan is available for no additional cost. Contact Joel at kosher@caltech.edu to sign up and get more info. This is an optional plan, and you can join at any time regardless of your religion or religious beliefs.**

Second, I thought I would report on a survey I conducted this summer. I called around to other colleges to ask how much their mandatory board plans were. I wanted to see if Caltech Board costs were reasonable, or if they were high compared to other schools. Here's what I found out, but bear in mind that these numbers may have changed since August.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Cost Per Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yale</td>
<td>11.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxy</td>
<td>12.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caltech</td>
<td>14.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvard</td>
<td>15.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princeton</td>
<td>17.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford</td>
<td>17.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>19.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So much to my surprise, Caltech is VERY affordable, especially considering the fact that the menu here is so much more varied than what is found at most of the colleges I just listed. So that is the scope from here. As always, if you have any food complaints, comments, or concerns, email tytell@caltech.edu, or talk to your food rep.

Till next time,

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**The Outside World**

by Cheryl Forest

**WASHINGTON, D.C.: On December 19, 1998, the House of Representatives approved two articles of impeachment against President Clinton. The articles accuse Clinton of lying under oath to a federal grand jury and of obstructing justice. The Senate trial began January 7, 1999. The current "sticking point" is whether or not witnesses will be introduced during the trial. In other Washington news, Republican Speaker-elect Bob Livingston resigned from his impending position amid allegations that he had "on occasion strayed from [his] marriage." Unless there are any other surprises or scandals prior to the start of the new Congress, the new Speaker will be Dennis Hastert from Illinois.**

**Iraq: U.S. and British forces conducted a series of "strong, sustained" airstrikes on military and security forces in Iraq starting around December 16, 1998. The airstrikes were designed to degrade Iraq's ability to develop and deploy weapons of mass destruction. The trigger for this particular show of force was Saddam Hussein's refusal to allow the U.N. weapons inspectors unrestricted access to his country. The U.N. conducts these inspections in accordance with the terms of the treaty ending the Gulf War of 1991. As suddenly as they had started, the airstrikes ended a few days later.**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone: President Ahmad Jami Kabba announced on January 6th that he and rebel leader Foday Sankoh have agreed to an immediate cease-fire in the country's civil war. The announcement has been met with doubt by other top rebel leaders, as Sankoh is currently in prison awaiting a death sentence for his role in the 1997 coup that overthrew Kabba. The few remaining staff members of international organizations such as the U.N. left the country January 5th.**

**Medio City: The government of Mexico has fought a public relations nightmare this past week as news of plans to eliminate subsidies on tortillas spread throughout the country. According to CNN, "the government apparently underestimated the depth of sentiment aroused by potential price increases in what Mexicans have always viewed as the bastion of the diet of the poor." Community Secretary Herminio Blanco called reporters down in a speech last Wednesday by reminding them that programs already exist for low-income families to receive one free kilogramm of tortillas a day.**

**Indonesia: Violence erupted last week in the "resource-rich" province of Aceh. The worst of the violence occurred last Sunday when 11 évi­lans were killed in a confronta­tion between the military and a mob of people attacking govern­ment buildings. Most of the people who were arrested during the unrest have since been re­leased, and even though the estab­lishment of another period of "military operations status" (mili­tary rule) is quite possible, the country appears to be returning to business as usual as the week wraps up.**

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GIMME FIVE, YOU BIG NUT! AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

WE MUST BE LIKE EAGLES, NOT DUCKS.

ALICE, I NEED YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING WITH ME TO HANDLE THE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS.

ALICE, YOUR PERFORMANCE EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS THIS YEAR.

BUT I'M NOT GIVING YOU THE TOP RATING BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOOT FOR.

IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOOT FOR.

STAY HERE GIVE ME MY HARDWARE.

THE GREETING OF MY ES EFFICIENT RECRUITING MANAGER.

WE TALKED ABOUT YOU AND YOUR STUFF WORKING ON THE CONTRACT YOUR LOUS ARE UNLEAVENED. IF YOU DON'T GET YOUR Buns ON TIME WITH YOUR FEET ON A SECOND KEYBOARD WE CAN LEAVE OFF half YOUR STUFF WITH YOUR FEET ON A SECOND KEYBOARD.

TO BE TOLERATED.

WE'LL CHECK THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION IS NOT ON THE CHANCE I SUGGEST YOU MAKE THIS EFFICIENT.

OF COURSE, IF I TELL PEOPLE PERCENTAGES, WE'RE PROBABLY NOT GOING TO BE TOLERATED.

LET'S STAY TIGHT.

PENCILS.
In the old days, starting let’s say with the Saturnalia of Roman times, but most likely earlier than that, this time of the year was marked by what one might call serious merrymaking. In medieval times, the riotous indulgence was led by the **Lord of Misrule**, also known as the Master of Revels. In fact the tradition continues in many ways, including the antics of the Mummers Parade in Philadelphia and it might be argued even as the oh! so sédule Rose Parade.

By now we have supposedly all had our jollies and race horses have had their birthday (that’s right, by tradition on Jan 1). And saw the winter term has started, and in spite of the terrible weather in most of the country only one student seems to be lost amid the snowdrifts. And so with reinvigorated minds, we are, I hope, almost all ready to face the second term. Now is the time to implement all the serious resolutions which we have made according to tradition. This is not just fun and games and mistletoe, this New Year stuff, but also a time of reassessment. So decide to smile more often, floss at least 5 days a week, loose weight, call home even if you don’t need money, go to all your classes etc. etc.

Actually just in case you have run out of ideas for ways to improve yourself, there is a website that has a ready made list of possible good intentions with which to pave your own private road to hell. I also found a site where you can deposit your resolutions, so that you may remind yourself of what they were, if ever you should forget. I suppose part of it is that announcing your resolutions to the whole world (the Internet is growing furiously) might shame you into persevering.

Among promises so listed as awaiting fulfillment are those of Stella, in London, Ontario, who writes and I quote verbatim “I want to read one book each month, I want to arrive in December and have read 12 different books.” She continues (the spelling is hers) “I decide that I will go to the gym 4 or 5 times a week and loose 5 pounds. I bought one small plates and I need entry it. This is my decision.”

Sounds like a modest and reachable goal, certainly more realistic than Brandi’s of Toronto who resolves “I want to weigh only 200 lbs by December 31, 1999. That’s 51 lbs to lose, and that’s only 1 lb a week. I can do it!”. Could it be that the year in Canada is shorter than it is here? At the high latitudes of course what with the long summer day and winter night, the number of dark/light cycles is less. But Toronto is near the 45th parallel, far from the Arctic circle. But never mind, with such a positive attitude and the extra week Brandi may succeed.

It is peculiar however that both of these Canadians have real problems expressing themselves in the Queen’s English, and also with spelling. And here I thought our schools were poor. The problem also exists in Quebec where “28% of adults are functionally illiterate”. A bit puzzling as to why this site turned up in my search. It turns out that it continues “Make a New Year’s Resolution, become a volunteer literacy tutor”. My diligent research also indicated that Gary of Elk Grove, California has resolved to spend less time on the computer and be more patient with his kids. Great! Also impressive is the determination of Gene from Boston who writes “I hereby pledge to return to the $60,000 compensation level by the end of 1999”. And Gene of Toronto who dreams of making “a monstrous (sic) amount of MONEY”. I guess those Canadians really are hopeless when it comes to spelling. But I wish them all the best of luck in their quests.

As I read about all these fine daydreams I decided it would be better if this year, rather than making resolutions for myself, I would ask others to make suggestions. After all I think I am already perfect. Don’t you think so?

Well may he you don’t. So I’ll give you a chance to tell me what I need to do to improve. This might well be a dangerous move, but there I go anyway, with the caveat that I reserve the right to accept or reject the suggestions. In other words if you tell me to go get lost in the Gobi desert, I might not go, even though that would be fabulous the specially if I could see the Himalayas too. So send your ideas for New Year’s resolutions that I personally, or the Dean’s Office in general should take.

Bonne Anne et a bientot!

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- **Information Session**: January 11, 1999
  - The Athenaeum
  - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Candidates Interested in the Business Analyst position should submit their resumes along with transcripts, SAT/GMAT/GRE/LSAT scores and location preference(s) by January 15, 1999 to:

Matt DeGrushe
Recruiting Administrator
McKinsey & Company
400 South Hope Street - Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90071

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**An Equal Opportunity Employer**
Winter term guitar classes will be held in Student Activities Center (SAC) room 3 on Tuesdays starting January 12. Beginning classes will run from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, intermediate from 3:30 to 4:30 pm, and advanced from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. These classes are free to all Caltech students and staff if space allows.

For more information contact Daryl Deming at ddeming@corn.caltech.edu or 626-465-0881.

Junior and sophomores with a 3.0 or better GPA may apply for the 1998-99 Cambridge Scholars Program. If you missed the meeting on this new study abroad program in Cambridge, England you should come by the Fellows Advisory Office and pick up an application packet before you leave for the term break. Completed applications for either the 1999 Fall or 2000 Winter term must be submitted by January 31, 1999. Lauren Stolper, who initiated this program, would be happy to meet with you individually or you can email her with questions at lstolper@caltech.edu. The application requires you to write a two-page letter of transcipt with a grade point average of 3.5 or better. It is possible to complete this proposal at the last minute as it requires that you identify the Cambridge Triops system which is quite complicated. Sample proposals are available for review in the Fellows Advisory Office.

A Caltech-Japan Internship Program Information Session will be held at noon on Friday, January 15, 1999 in Beckman Auditorium Room (in Chandler Cafeteria). Pizza will be provided. All students interested in participating in a summer work abroad program in Japan should attend. The office is accepting applications for the internship.

For more information contact Dr. Kayoko Hirata, ext. 4210, or hirata@corn.caltech.edu.

Attention Caltech Clubs: The Clubs Office is now accepting applications for club funding. If your club would like to apply for sponsorship and funding, please download an application from http://www.sjs.caltech.edu/clubsidev/Club.html. The deadline for applications is January 30. If you have any questions, please e-mail sjs@caltech.edu.

The Career Development Center (CDC) is interested in working with seniors to participate in focus groups to assess student career-related trends. Whether you’ve decided to go to grad school, get a job, don’t know yet, or have some other plans in mind, we’d like to talk about it, the CDC would like to hear from you. Each focus group will last approximately one hour. Light refreshments will be served and participants will receive gift certificates. Debit, a Career Alliance and return in the future, will conduct the focus groups. If you are interested in voicing your opinion and learning about CDC services, contact Debit at deb@caltech.edu or call the CDC at 256-3261.

Attention Seniors: Hard copies of the DOD Fellowship application are available in the Fellows Advisory Office. You can also access applications on the Web at www.battelle.org/dod. The formal name for the DOD fellowship is the National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowships Program (NDSEG). It is writ-

Wednesday, January 13, 1999 at 8:00 pm in Beckman Auditorium.

Don’t miss a Lagemann chamber concert by the Debussy Trio in Doh- nanyi Hall from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Especially not one which is free!

Applications for National Security Education Program (NSEP) under-

scho larship are available for study abroad in summer 1999, fall 1999, and spring 2000. Applicants must be full-time students of Korean American heritage enrolled in at least their second year of undergraduate or graduate school in the West Region. To apply, applicants must submit application form: a current academic transcript; two letters of recommendation; one picture of applicant taken within the last year; and a copy of the student’s and parents’ 1998 Federal Income Tax Returns. Students can obtain additional information on the Foundation and download an application form from www.kfs.org or by writing to: Schol- arship Committee, KAS/ Western Region, P.O. Box 486, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. The deadline is January 31, 1999.

The Chemical Society/Bayer Scholars awards are for incoming freshmen, transfer students majoring in chemistry or biochemistry. Scholarships are renewable if eligibility is maintained. Applicants must submit an application by March 15, 1999. Students are encouraged to submit an application even if they have not completed all winter undergraduate study. Applicants must be African American, Hispanic American, and Native American; and be U.S. citizen or permanent residents. These scholarships are valued at up to $2,500 each academic year. Application information is available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline is January 15, 1999.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers offers scholarships awards of $2,500 for undergraduate students and $3,500 for graduate students for the 1999-2000 academic year. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens and demonstrate a genuine interest in a career in naval engineering. The scholarship award must be for support of the last year of fellowship or co-op undergraduate program or for the first year of full-time gradu-

The deadline is February 9, 1999.

On the listed fellowships, assistance with essays, for citation of questions, contact:

FAR - The Fellowships Advisory Office.

For information, contact lauren_stolper@starlab.caltech.edu.

To make an appointment, call 2120.

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To submit the report for the Miss, contact minx@tech.caltech.edu or Mail Code 040-055 by noon on the Monday of the week the report is due. The reports should be brief and concise. Please do not send Mints in difficult formats as the format and style of Mints are flexible. The editors reserve the right to edit and discard all material. Please make copies of your reports so that one copy will be referred to the business manager.