AXLINE ESTATE WILLS CALTECH $60 MILLION

BY TECH STAFF

On Wednesday, the estate of Rea and Lela Axline donated $60 million to Caltech for the purpose of student support, or student financial aid. The bequest comes after the December 24 death of Lela Axline and is roughly half of the entire estate. The grant is the single biggest donation from any individual donor in Caltech’s 108 year history.

The donation comes as a grant to Caltech’s endowment, and will increase the annual aid given to undergraduate students. According to David Baltimore, Caltech’s President, the student-aid gift could make Caltech the foremost institution in the world in terms of providing educational support for future scientists and technologists.

The gift is an exciting addition to Caltech’s endowment portfolio. As Baltimore expresses, “providing sufficient graduate and undergraduate student aid to attract the very best students to Caltech is one of our greatest challenges.”

The Axlines are well-known San Diegan philanthropists. Their estate is also making donations to the San Diego Museum of Art and the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art. Rea Axline, who died in 1992, graduated from Caltech in 1931, majoring in mechanical engineering and having served on the Caltech Associates board of directors and was a life member of the Alumni Association.

Rea Axline made his fortune in a process for coating metals with other metal alloys. The process, patented during the Depression, became especially significant when the US joined World War II. The process was used to coat submarines, tanks, and other military vehicles. Axline’s company, Mountain Metallurgical, cofounded by Axline after the war, was later sold to Perkin-Elmer in 1972.

Lela Axline was a renowned painter, teacher, and supporter of art. A graduate of UC Berkeley and Columbia University, she taught at Stanford University and later, in San Diego, became involved in the San Diego Museum of Art.

Besides its size, the donation was notable in its lack of restrictions. The money was to establish a student aid fund with annual awards to be “made at the discretion of the president or his designee.”

The Axlines have provided other gifts to Caltech in previous years, including funding the Rea and Lela Axline Professorship, currently held by economist Colin Camerer.

Panel discusses race and future

Monday, January 18th, as the rest of the nation was winding up an extra-long weekend of TV watching, the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was celebrated at Caltech. At 1 P.M., in Ramo Auditorium, a panel of experts convened to discuss how far the issue of race has come from pre-Colonial days, and what hurdles can be expected in the future.

The panel members, consisting of two African-American males, a Caucasian male, a Latina female and an Asian female, each had radically different perspectives on racial issues. The discussion started with a bang: as moderator Tommy Hawkins introduced the panel, the front of the podium fell off. After some quick maintenance by spectators in the front row, Morgan Kousser began the discussion.

Kousser, a professor in the division of Humanities and Social Sciences, provided a background on the evolution of racism in America. He began by describing the changing racial distribution of California’s population. An expert in the legal and political realm of race relations, Kousser also described the evolution of race-related legislation since the Civil War.

Next to speak was Dr. Michael Scott, an African-American urologist who was born in the West Indies. Scott described both personal contact with racial biases through his medical studies and the ongoing history of racial violence against African-Americans. He also expressed a desire to see “Institutes for Race Relations” established at colleges and universities to discuss strategies for racial reconciliation.

Leonora Barron, who currently directs a community-based social organization, had a more personal perspective on race. She grew up in east Los Angeles. Her early childhood was marked by several incidents of violence, including the discovery of a dead body at age five, and a series of riots. She expressed hope for combating racism in the future, particularly on the community level. “We need to make choices that em­brace everyone else,” she observed.

Attorney Diann Kim had a very unique perspective. Her family was the only group of Asians in a small Indiana town where most people were classified by their flavor of Christian­ity, rather than color of skin. She talked extensively about problems caused in the Asian community by the “Model Minority” myth. According to Kim, this myth stereotypes Asians as smarter, harder working, and making more positive contributions to society than other minorities. She said that this myth has had diverse repercussion within the Asian community, such as making it difficult for low-income families to obtain state and federal aid.

The end of the session was devoted to questions and answers from the audience. When asked what Caltech was doing to encourage minority students, PLEASE SEE MLK ON PAGE 4
Student Chamber Music Concert
Saturday, January 24, 3:00 p.m.
Dabney Hall

Robert Schumann's (1810-1856) Quartet for Piano and Strings, Op. 47. Players include David Pang, violin; Kacie Shelton, viola; Dan Giannmar, cello; and Cheryl Forest, piano. The combination of violin, viola, cello, and piano, was first used by Mozart, and inspired some of the greatest chamber music of the Romantic era. Schumann wrote this quartet in just two weeks in October of 1842. Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) wrote two trios for violin, cello, and piano, and Sunday's concert will include the C minor trio, Op. 66, the less frequently heard of the trios. Performers will be Nick Knowl, violin; Kay Jhan, cello; and Dan Rogstad, piano. Mendelssohn composed this trio in 1846. This tremendous outpouring of excitement in the first movement is followed by a peaceful song-like second movement, and then one of Mendelssohn's typically masterful Scherzo, and finally a last movement marked "Fast with passion" which juxtaposes various rapid passages with a stately Lutheran chorale. The program will also include Debussy's Petite Suite for piano and two piano duets by Giao Hang and Ah-San Wong. Free (no tickets required). Refreshments will follow the performance.

Alive with Music!
Wednesday, January 27
Dabney Hall
Prof. Rick Wilson and Fred Kasper: duets on pre-modern flutes. These free, informal, serious-but-not solemn sessions of music and talk are held every Wednesday in Dabney Hall. All are welcome. Caltech students are specially invited. Arrive late or leave early as your schedule dictates.

Student Concert
Thursday, January 28, noon
Dabney Hall
This concert will feature a string trio, cello quartet, clarinet quintet, two piano duets, and the ever-popular free lunch for the first 100 people.

Caltech Jazz Band Concert
featuring Wayne Bergeron
Saturday, January 23, 8:00 p.m.
Beckman Auditorium

William Bing will direct the two jazz bands in this weekend's concert. Some of the musical selections to be performed include "Zoot Suit Riot", "Jump, Jive, and Wait", and "St. Louis Blues". The guest soloist, Wayne Bergeron, began his professional trumpet career at the age of 19. In 1986 Wayne joined the Maynard Ferguson Band. His Television credits range from Pinky & the Brain to the Emmy Awards and the Jeopardy theme. Mr. Bergeron has recorded with many artists to include Chicago, Celine Dion, and Wayne has performed with Rick Wilcox and Fred Ah-San Wong.

In this concert we will feature a quintet, two piano duets, and the Maynard Ferguson Band.

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The California Tech Watch
by Cheryl Forest

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ASCIT Vice President

Keith Peters

The Honor System is the part of Caltech that separates us from most other colleges in the country. In my opinion, the most important part of the Honor System is the faculty trust in student integrity, which is acknowledged in a codebook take-home exam. It is important to make sure that the students who have an Honor Code are able to do this.

Thank you for your time,
Keith A. Peters

Alan Rosenwinkel

My name is Alan Rosenwinkel. I am currently the ASCIT Vice President/Board of Control Chairman. I am running for a second term because...

1) In the past I have learned volumes about how the system works and I have a lot of insight into what changes would be best for the community and the Honor System. If I am elected to a second term in office, I will put an emphasis on making positive changes to the way the Board of Control works, both in handling cases and in educating the community about the Honor System. Along these lines, the Board currently has a list of possible bylaw changes that will be discussed at the next Monthly Open Business Meeting in February. Among them are bylaws requiring each representative to be convicted of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt before voting to convict a student of breaking the Honor System and requiring the Board to decide on all convictions and nullification decisions in a case before being told if the student has any prior Honor System Violations.

2) I am also a member of a committee formed by Chris Benten, named the Committee on Student Government and Administrative Action (COSGAA), which is looking into the relationship between different disciplinary action (Deans, IHC, Res Life and the BoC). Out of this committee we will come a recommendation as to how these bodies should determine what cases are dealt with by which group. It would be very valuable to have the people who are on this committee, (the Deans, Kim West, Jaideep Singh, and myself) use the next year to make sure that it is implemented in an appropriate manner.

3) I want to continue as BoC Chair again. I realize that it is very difficult for you to know if I have been doing a good job because it's all secret. If you want to know such a thing, you should talk to your house BoC rep, Kevin Bradley (the BoC Secretary), or the Dean. They will all have some insight into how good a job I do, but Kevin really is the only one who knows everything because he and I do preliminary investigations. On the other hand he is one of my best friends so he might not tell you the truth...wait...he's the BoC Secretary...I think if you ask him whether I suck, he will tell you his honest opinion.

Anyway, I think that's about all I have to say. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me (aloen@caltech) or stop by my room (Lloyd 210)

Thanks for listening,
Alan Rosenwinkel
Chairman, Board of Control

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SECTION I: The general offices of the Corporation shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, House Committee Chairman, Directors for Academic Affairs, Director for Social Activities, and two Directors at Large. These offices, and those of Board of Control Secretary, and Editor of the California Tech and Secretary of the Academic and Research Committee, are elected offices.

The Honor System is the part of Caltech that separates us from most other colleges in the country. In my opinion, the most important part of the Honor System is the faculty trust in student integrity, which is acknowledged in a codebook take-home exam. It is important to make sure that the students who have an Honor Code are able to do this.

Thank you for your time,
Keith A. Peters

ASCIT President

Baldeep Sadhal

I must admit that my competition is the better politician. No is smarter, sexier, and more likely to cure tumours of scandal. No can lie better than I can, and no looks good in my banana. But there is one thing that I do know, and that is I can drive a car. No one will be able to get your Friday night donuts. Vote for Baldeep, He's pro-donut.

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MARS... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year-old Caltech sophomore Chris Hirata. "But impractical engineering killed the plan." July 20th, 1999 will mark the 30th anniversary of the Apollo XI landing. "As the 30th anniversary approaches," continued Hirata, "our goal is to have a plan worthy of a new national effort-and the dream of humans-to-Mars itself."

Caltech/JPL Mars Society chapter president Derek Shannon thinks so, too. "The public has opened up its imagination to the possibilities with every step, from the Allan Hills meteorite to the wildly successful Pandora finnd mission. All that's needed is a plan that everyone can agree on for a unified push to put people on Mars." However, Shannon is careful to reserve credit for the plan-and man-that has already rallied support for humans-to-Mars all over the world. "Dr. Zubrin's Mars Direct plan is what has gotten us this close, and it's still at the heart of almost every plan out there, including ours."

Dr. Zubrin will present his talk, "The Case for Mars," at 4:30 p.m. this Saturday in Baxter Lecture Hall. Admission is free.

MLK... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

President Baltimore joined the discussion. He stated that Caltech, while admitting minorities at a rate comparable to other premium institutions, has had a lower than average acceptance rate. According to Baltimore, this discrepancy is due to the added incentives other schools give to minorities. In order to compete, Caltech has recently increased monies allocated to Presidential and merit scholarships, and the number of minority students actually attending has increased over the historical average. The final questions to the panel revealed a mixed picture for the future. All panelists seemed to agree that racism is still prevalent, particularly on economic fronts and that race relations tend to oscillate dramatically over a period of several decades. However, the solution to racial issues seems to lie with the individual. As Leonora Barron put it, the key to resolving racial issues is to "actions in your daily life that derive others of their rights."

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Waterboy qualities, though, because this movie tries to explore more dramatic teen issues, like expectations, getting into a university with no core curriculum (Brown), drinking, running away from cops, and.clearing up. Mos (Van Der Beek) serves as the replacement quarterback for the last 5 games after the first one bows out because of injury, and he naturally becomes the hope of the town. I'm being sarcastic, but the movie is supposed to be quite decent, and it has to be better than Virus.

Virus (rated R for gross anatomy and other wannabe horror-pieic stuff a ll them rub things, two cow pies)

First, there's a shot of a Russian research vessel in com-link with MIR so that the head scientist can play chess with some-one an atmosphere away. And, the submarine-electronic propagation which makes the connections on MIR go bonkers, and then a weird signal to the Russian vessel is sent. In the end, lots of people on board become unconscious.

A week later, in a Gilliganesque sequence, a small ship is tossed around in stormy seas under onslaught by a hurricane. They enter the eye of the storm to make repairs, but realizing that the sky is taking in water, they find a behemoth ghost vessel to board. Finding the ship deserted (or so they think), some of the members foresee the fortune they would make scavenging its parts, ignoring the puddles of blood hidding here and there, and the bunches of maliciously severed wings protruding around... the mindless human bodies to come later... Well, not really, but the sabor-

taged ship does look kind of creepy. The captain of the boat is irrational, and ignores the threat of malicious little robots who suddenly pop up out of nowhere and start slicing the tugboat refugees, one by one. So it's hard to find anything heroic about Foster, the voice of rationality, played by ex teen scream queen Jamie Lee Curtis.

The creation of electrical engineering nightmares is some creature/extraterrestrial entity (which also attacked MIR) which construes humans as the ultimate bad boy (or extraterrestrial) vil-lus. Lurking inside the computer mainframe of the ship, it builds itself a malicious army of androids. It also steals information to create a supercomputer. And I, a virus, and I deserve to die... hmmm, how ironic that in a bio- logical sense, viruses technically aren't living to begin with.

The title is a play on words, I'm sure, the mis-leading. It could have been yet another installment of I Saw What You Can Do Last Summer (being that the alien knows the human behavior of the human race) or Roboticans (people running away from robots gone amok amok amok amok...)
The special effects are few and far between, and the acting is non-existent. It tries to establish the gravity of the whole situation, but all that is created is a sense of the film's stupidity. Bits of attempted humor are futile, as it is only a poor knock-off of the Alien series of Event horizon. Too much time was wasted establishing the situation the first week, and the last installment of the film's stupidity. The audience is left scratching their heads... well, no, actually it was the film's stupidity. While self-sacrifice in Aliens and Event Horizon is evidently copied, the aftermath of one character's de-mise strikes a chord of "Oh, the Russian lady self-sacrificed, and it's a good thing..."

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Dean's Corner

What TAS&S we undertake!

by Jean-Paul Revel

Well, last Monday was in deed an incredibly rich day.

It started at 8 am with an "Administrator's Forum", a presentation about aspects of Caltech culture by our Historian and Archivist Judy Goodstein and her husband, Professor of Physics and Vice Provost, David.

Like their "Liquid Air" Watson lecture, it was a Tour de Force, emphasizing two of Caltech's most well-known "origins", President Millikan and Richard Feynman. The presentation was humorous but conveyed the sublime and not so sublime ways in which these two contributed to what Tech is now.

It is a pity that students were not invited. But then at 8 am, there would only have been a handful of listeners from that particular group. Actually even Dr. Judith Goodstein avered that it was not her favorite time of day to deliver a lecture.

One of the stories she told us was about of Mrs. Millikan, a very primit and distinguished lady. She was an engineer, a big risk for serving tea. Apparently she often had to go to social functions by herself, while her husband was otherwise occupied, engaged in esoteric pursuits like "all nights" spent observing an oil droplet suspended between condenser plates, which led him to determine the charge of a single electron.

She was once asked about Millikan's absence. Oh! said Mrs. Millikan, he is watching an ion! That was promptly relayed down to the faculty as "Briney's Best Bet".

No calculations about how remote the possibilities, especially when based on approximation and the incomplete data available, can ever prove that life (or anything else) can or cannot exist.

I am told that the session generated so much interest that it lasted till midnight! What a day, what a day!

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The last mind stretching event of the day was a lecture given by Dr. Hugh Ross, who has a Ph.D. in astrophysics from the University of Toronto, and was a postdoctoral scholar at Caltech.

The billboard suggested that Dr Ross had found ways of linking his religious beliefs to scientific understanding of the Universe.

His scientific credentials made this a tantalizing suggestion, and perhaps he has, but he did not convince this listener that his presentation was anything but an act of faith.

The crux of the argument as I understood it, was that new discoveries of science support the biblical account of Genesis.

Never mind that the scriptures contain several different versions of creation. A universe starting with a Big Bang certainly begs the question of what was there before.

Placing God there is fine if that is all we mean by Creationist. But such a postulate is not falsifiable at this point, and so it is an act of faith, falling outside the scope of science. Ross claims but provides no evidence that the creator was in fact the Christian God. Other people might well assert that it was another deity or that there was none at all.

As I see it, if one wants to believe, fine, but let's then not pretend that the scientific approach has been followed. Scientific explanations must be of the kind that can be proved or disproved.

There must be some things which have to be fine tuned for life to exist, or at least seems to be fine tuned, does not prompt me to believe that there is a design and therefore a designer. It is just not valid to postulate adaptation through evolutionary mechanisms. Whatever was not "in tune" did not survive.

As Darwin put it, it is the vanishing of the fittest. Life on Earth does exist under an amazing range of conditions, thriving in the hot pools of Yellowstone and other volcanic areas, on the ice of glaciers, in the depths of the sea, where they are fed by the effluvium of black smokers, and in the colorful brine pools of San Francisco Bay.

The organisms involved differ in subtle and not so subtle ways, but it is clear that generally organisms have the capability of functioning in rather diverse environments, from which we could guess that life may exist elsewhere in the Universe, or again, maybe not.

No calculations about how remote the possibilities, especially when based on approximation and the incomplete data available, can ever prove that life (or anything else) can or cannot exist.

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The editors of your club would like to apply for money, you can download an application from:

http://www.chem.caltech.edu/chemistry/fellowships/ 

**Fellows** and **Scholarships**

**National Chemical Society**

The Society's Undergraduate Scholarships Program offers scholarships to undergraduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are interested in careers in the chemical sciences. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline is February 15, 1999.

**The American Society of Chemistry Scholarship Program**

The American Chemical Society Scholarship Program offers scholarships to undergraduate students in the chemical sciences. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline is February 15, 1999.

**The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity**

The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity offers a $500 stipend for full-time undergraduate junior and seniors in colleges and universities committed to the study of genocide. Applications must be submitted on behalf of a student by a college or university administrator, faculty advisor, or faculty member, and be accompanied by a completed entry form. No more than three entries may be submitted from the same college, university, or campus in any one competition. To obtain an entry form and further information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, 450 Lexington Avenue, Suite #1206, New York, NY 10017. No fax submissions will be accepted. Applications must be received by January 22, 1999, or be delivered to the Foundation office by 5:00 p.m., January 22, 1999.

**The American Electrochemists and Solid State Society (AESS)**

Applications are available for scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students for the 1999-2000 academic year. More information is available by contacting the AESS at 624-574-3030 or aess@chem.wisc.edu. Applications must be submitted by March 15, 1999. For further information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: AESS Scholarship Committee, 624-574-3030, 1101 W. Johnson St., Madison, WI 53706. The deadline is April 4, 1999.

**The Space Scholarships Program**

The Space Scholarships Program offers scholarships to students who are interested in the careers in the electrical and surface finishing field. Undergraduate students who are interested in the career in electrical and surface finishing, chemical engineering, environmental engineering, materials science, mechanical engineering, or metallurgical engineering. To obtain an application, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Space Scholarships Program, Suite 22, Room 303, 11766 W. Ambassador Plaza, P.O. Box 486, Pikesville, MD 21227. The deadline is January 31, 1999.

**Chemical Society of America Educational Foundation**

The Chemical Society of America Educational Foundation offers scholarships for incoming freshmen, sophomores, and seniors majoring in chemistry or biochemistry. Scholarships are renewable if initial eligibility criteria are maintained throughout undergraduate study. Applications must be submitted on or before January 15, 1999. Scholarships are valued at up to $2,500 for each academic year. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline is February 15, 1999.

The deadline is April 6, 1999.

The deadline is April 1, 1999.

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**The American Chemical Society Scholarship Program**

The American Chemical Society Scholarship Program offers scholarships to undergraduate students who are U.S. citizens and have a knowledge of Mandarin Chinese. Students will be selected in April 1999. The application process will begin in February 1999 and be completed in May 1999. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline is February 15, 1999.