Campus24.com ventures online
Caltech alums start online auctions, classifieds for college students

By Katy Isaac

Campus24.com, a new internet company founded in part by Caltech alumni, launched April 1st, 1999. The company is currently focusing on the Boston area, but hopes to get the Caltech community involved as soon as possible.

Campus24.com is a classifieds and auction site devoted to the college community, specifically focusing on undergraduate and graduate students.

Although Campus24.com does not plan on a California roll-out for several months, the company is interested in the Caltech reaction now. They are hoping to get comments and critique from Caltech students about all facets of their site.

"I want to the Caltech community to get involved. It’s a small controlled environment and Caltech students are very good and picking out small details and problems," said Wen Hsieh, a co-founder of Campus24.com.

Hsieh is currently a graduate student at Caltech in Electrical Engineering. He graduated in 1994 from Caltech with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. Albert S. Lee, who graduated from Caltech in 1994 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Economics, and Leslie Lee, who graduated in 1995 with a B.S. in Physics, are also part of the founding group, which also includes Harvard Business and Law students.

The group founded the idea for Campus24.com a little over a year ago. The project was completely self-funded, utilizing no help from venture capitalists. The site currently features a standard on-line auction like that of eBay.com or Amazon.com. However, it also features a classifieds section for selling items at a set price. Also, Campus24.com has a "zoom" feature, which allows users to search within their school, town, region, and the entire nation.

"The benefit of that is to provide local students with a convenient channel to sell, advertise, and inform," said Hsieh.

"We have a lot of plans. But we need users." - Wen Hsieh

The site is completely free to students and college affiliates, while entities such as companies and other individuals must pay a fee to sell things. Because the site is designed around students, users do not have to be 18 years of age like at some other on-line auctions.

The site hopes to create a marketplace for things such as textbooks, furniture, computers, and jobs. "The daily life of a college student, that’s what we’re trying to cater to," said Hsieh.

Campus24.com primary sources of income are commission and listing fees from their auctions and classified and integrated (banner) advertising. They also plan to make money off of hosting merchant websites in the future.

The company is also making deals with various on-line merchants to get special student deals in affiliation with Campus24.com. Many of these companies are already running auctions as well.

Campus24.com also hopes to focus on the varying needs of different schools. "What we need to do is have a representative at each school and cater to that school," said Hsieh. However, he goes on, "We will not solicit to Caltech in any commercial manner."

Later on, Campus24.com hopes to provide links in every campus directory on their site to things such as the campus library system and the registrar.

"We have a lot of plans," said Wen Hsieh. "But we need users."

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Caltech sinks into decadence

Talking to Techers there is a sense we are living in the sun-set of Caltech as a unique in-stitution. Certainly as a re-search institution we are just as strong as ever but the spirit of the undergraduate experience seems to be dying away. In any institution with as rich a history as Caltech the legends of the past will tend to overshadow the present. However, the problem seems to be deeper than this. What ties the past glory of an institution to the dreams of the future, is not merely the achievements but the passions and drive that qualify that institution and set it apart from a sea of mediocre copies. We pride ourselves on being the movers and shakers, but when push comes to shove, we opt to run with our slice of the pie rather than demanding a better meal.

Is Caltech to be anything but a nice job? Let's be blunt about it, if Caltech is to survive, as anything but another technical school we need a vision for which the students are willing to risk their futures, and devote their time.

Sincerely,
Amit Kenjale

Please send letters to
The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

or by electronic mail to
editors@tech.caltech.edu

Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5pm.

13th annual All Mozart concerts
Dabney Hall Friday, April 9, and Saturday, April 10 at 8:00 p.m.
There will be music to welcome the audience before the concert. Free food afterwards!

Gunnarli String Quartet
Beckman Auditorium Sunday, April 11, 1999 at 3:30 p.m.
A Conversation with Jonathan Miller
The Eighth James Michelin Distinguished Visitor Lecture
Beckman Auditorium Saturday, April 9, 1999 at 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Richard Garwin
"Ballistic Missile Defense Revisited"
Charles and Thomas Lauritsen Memorial Lecture
Beckman Auditorium Wednesday, April 14, 1999 at 8:00 p.m.
The lecture is free; tickets are not required.

The Outside World
by Erik Dill

Utrecht, the Netherlands - On Monday, two suspects in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988, arrived in the Netherlands to face trial. The suspects had been sheltered by the Libyan government, for which the United Nations had imposed trade sanctions against Libya. The UN removed these sanctions immediately, while separate U.S. sanctions remain in place.

Washington, D.C. - On Monday, the Supreme Court decided that police officers who had probable cause to search a vehicle could also search the belongings of passengers not suspected of any illegal activity. Over-turning a decision by the Supreme Court of Wyoming. Justice Antonin Scalia said that no distinction should be made, based on ownership, of containers in an automobile being searched without a warrant, and that passengers have a reduced expectation of privacy in such a situation.

Kosovo - Yugoslavian officials in Belgrade declared Thursday that anti-terrorist activities by Serbian forces against the Kosovo Liberation Army were over. There are several unconfirmed reports that Serb troops began laying land mines on the Kosovar side of the border with Albania.

NATO continued the bombing campaign against Serbia, denying that it has caused appreciable damage to civilians targets. NATO officials expressed concern about 20,000 refugees near the Kosovar capital Pristina. Negotiations for release of the three U.S. soldiers have halted, despite new efforts by diplomatic contingent from Cyprus.

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Ensuring the future for those who shape it.
The Ticket Stub

By Justin Ho

(In light of the freshemn rite of passage to grades, film reviews will hereby bby the form of letter grades.)

Analyze This (B–)
R: for naughty tumbles and wisy guys stuff

Following in the footsteps of the HBO epic, "The Sopranos"—which pioneered the concept of mobsters mentally disturbed with their lines of profession—"Analyze This" seeks to cash in on wise guys with its Hollywood high profile cast. The quintessential mobster presence Robert DeNiro assumes the respected throne of a major organized crime family. But in mobster stuff, there's too much melodrama too. How many times have we seen Mr. Taxi Driver in this pivotal iconoclastic role of American association? And been totally in awe of the stoic masterpiece, ruthless toward betrayers, and ill at ease to relatives, which has defined the uncontrollability of the mafia? And in stark contrast is the blubbering, gawping dog whisperer who is Paul Vitti (De Niro) having an identity crisis. Robberly exasperatingly perplexed Dr. Soble (Billy Crystal) will not see him today.

Looking forward to his second major role in "The Sopranos," Dr. Ben Soble is nevertheless stuck in a dead-end job as a family counselor, which in the context of "90s separation culture, and divorce and terrorism and divorce. Middle-life crisis frowns upon Mr. Vitti as well. Memoires of his father's assassination, his own inability to prevent it as a boy, play dead part in his assessment of the events on this, the eve of the second grand union of godfathers. Someone is after him, ostensibly a rival mafia "ass", and it becomes quite evident that although Vitti's personal mortality is at stake, he is main source of panic rests in his fear of making his child fatherless. Not that this precludes him from possibly em-}
Meeting called to order at 22:03.

**Officer Reports**

Derek - Organized the ASCIT budget meeting we had on Saturday, April 3, 1999 starting at 7pm. "It wasn't that big of a catastrophe."  

Jeremiah - Cleared out the ASCIT van last week. The title for it has yet to be located so it can not yet be sold. Jeremiah also replaced the battery and now the van drives like a dream. A brawl breaks out over the remnants of the van such as the 2 illustrous ASCIT license plates. Also, the copier broke and he fixed it.

Garrett - Held an ESC meeting today and basically delegated all of the work involved for the ASCIT Prefresh party to the committee members. He also is planning out the large donut order for Prefresh weekend. Garrett is still waiting to hear back from the Ritz Huntington as a possible location for the ASCIT formal and he also delegated members of the ESC to look into bands that have played the same time.  

Iijie Kim is appointed the Tem Editor for next year.  

Meeting reopens at 22:40. Derek is returned to context as well.

**Minutes**

Minutes of the ASCIT BoD Meeting, March 29, 1999

Present: BoD minus Alan, Danny and Nicholas Knouf, Angela Shum, Kartik Srinivasan, Katy Isaacs, Erik Stred

Meeting called to order at 22:03.

Dealing with Guests

Nick - Requests money for the Blacker Interhouse party 9pm to 2am on April 10, 1999 with the "inferno" theme.

Katy - Wants Anime Society for last term. She asks if the ASCIT meeting can be pushed back since most of the flers publicize it within this week and no e-mail notification was received about it. Also, inconsistent dates are present on the form.

General Business

"I dare 20% of the corporation to dissolve my hair as" - Jaideep

Baldeep will write up a bylaw amendment to propose the addition of a Publication Director to the ASCIT BoD. This amendment, if passed, would be based on the condition of the elimination of the Underclass Director — Large with this director's duties being passed on the Freshman Director—Large at the next BoD election.

Meeting closes at 22:17.  

Derek is abducted by aliens at the same time.  

Iijie Kim is appointed the Tem Editor for next year.

**I.H.C. MINUTES**

MARCH 13, 1999

Present: BoD minus Jaideep, Danny (Alan blades in and out)

Meeting called to order, 11:18.

Meeting closes intermittently for interview and discussion.

BoD appoints:  
Moives Chair - Tim Crosby  
Big T Business Manager - Katy Isaacs  
Big T Editor - Erik Dill

BoD also approves $400 for last year's ASCIT movie during prefresh weekend.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53. Respectfully submitted,

Hanna Kim ASCIT Secretary

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Campus Lottery  
The Avery Council and the IHC have met on several occasions over the break to come up with a solution to the headache of the Off-Campus Lottery. In order to maintain a sense of community in the off-campus houses (ie Avery, Marks, etc.) while pleasing as many people as possible, the picks procedure has changed. Keep a look out for the mailing of Lottery Cards.

Prefresh Weekend  
Obey the almighty Rotation Rules or else... Also, Housing will be sweeping the rug so to speak so expect loud noises at dawn.

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Housing Notes

Now you can report maintenance requests on-line (link through housing home page). The sooner you report the problem the sooner it will be fixed. A word to the wise — be persistent.

Off-Campus Affiliated housing has recently experienced numerous vacancies. Housing pooled the IHC to find out what improvements could make this housing more appealing. The Housing Office is working on providing ethernet and campus extensions to these rooms, but more severe improvements take time.

Committee Appointments  
The IHC will conduct appointments on the weekend of May 8th & 9th. Currently the IHC is hosting committee meetings at meals to compile a description of the duties of each of the committees. These results will be discussed in the Tech prior to committee sign-ups. For a complete list of members currently on the committees check out the IHC home page.

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Iems  
Jaideep would like to continue a House System Review. Since the last one was 30 years ago, Sounds like a summer project... Have you seen Blacker's flag?

With love,
Catelyn Gifford
IHC Secretary
Tis Pity She's a Whore

1630s England was a turbulently violent, bloody place, and my co-worker Dave Barton's adaptation of John Ford's 1630s play of incest, treachery, and murder fits the spirit of the period to a T. In a certain sense, 'Tis Pity is a twist on Romeo and Juliet—but instead of feuding families, lovers Giovanni (Stephen Wagner) and Annabella (Lisa Layne Griffiths) are from a little too close in the same family: they're brother and sister. As with the Shakespearean tragedy, a substantial fraction of the cast ends up dead by the final curtain, and director Barton has definitely not skimmed on the blood. The close-up staging in the round and fiery performances immerse the audience in a vivid, exciting, and wholly entertaining, with more violence, nudity, and sex than I've seen in any play before.

The two leads are exceptionally tender in their early love scenes, with Griffths, younger for the same foil to Wagner's transformation from potato-faced dope to raving madman. Scott Caster and Jay Michael Fralley are excellent as scheming villains, and Chris Palmquist plays the lead's confessor priest with just the right level of fire and brimstone. Ralph DiFiore, as the patriarch, is more an orator than an actor, and while Frances Hearn is both powerful and natural as the scorned lover Hippolita, her character's role seems confusing and superfluous in Barton's adapted script. The rest of the cast, too numerous to mention here, is also very talented.

The modern, vaguely gothic-industrial set and costumes are complemented by occasional clips of music, which don't always fit in smoothly but were nevertheless appropriately chosen. The show runs weekends through April 18, and has become the Rude Guerrilla Theatre Company's biggest hit, so reserve your tickets now. Those making the trip down to Santa Ana won't be disappointed, and you may even get water-soluble blood splashed on your clothes. Friday and Saturday nights @ 8:00 p.m., Sundays @ 2:30 p.m., the Empire Theatre, 200 N. Broadway, Santa Ana. $12 general, $10 students with ID. Reservations: (714) 547-4688.

The Matrix

I wish all Hollywood shoot-em-ups were as good as this new thriller from the Wachowski Brothers (Bound). The special effects (especially the very high-speed "bullet time" photography) are good, the costumes and lighting are cool, and the script is pretty freaky. It's not completely original—the most notable non-cinematic influences are the works of Philip K. Dick and comic books like The Invisibles—but the reality-bending story is executed well enough to make this actioneer stand out from the crowd. The top-notch fight scenes are so good I didn't mind that they went on too long. Laurence Fishburne is great, as always, and Keanu Reeves can certainly deliver a movie with his physical presence. Those of you who find Hugo Weaving's creepy, robotic secret agent eerily familiar may be surprised to realize he was one of the drag queen's in The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert.

A Taste For Murder

by Claudia Bishop

This is one of those things that reminds me of why I do not pick books at random off the shelf. It is a bland, dull mystery with one of the things that I hate the most: a stupid protagonist.

The setting, and premise, for the series is a small bed-and-breakfast in fictional Hemlock Falls, New York. The place is run by a pair of sisters, the older of which does the cooking and crime solving. There is the requisite supporting cast of eccentric characters with deep histories, but they were not distinct enough for me to remember who everyone was, or even care. Part of the problem is that Bishop has made so many of them so distasteful that you simply don't want to hear about their lives.

The murders are at least creative, if a bit hard to believe, and the story hangs together fairly well at the end. It's all a bit hard to swallow, but at least it's consistent. What I can't get over is this habit I keep seeing in new writers to make their hero/protagonist a clueless, bumbling fool. Maybe having a character explain the crime to another character is just easier for an author when she writes the ending. It isn't a good trade. Arrogant characters don't tend to improve the experience for the reader. I could go on, but this book was too bland to merit a really scathing review. Tune in next week when I'll write about something I actually liked.
DILBERT® by Scott Adams

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AND I'LL NEED A HELICOPTER, DOUBLE ROTOR.

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DOB YOUR THE BUDGET CALCIULATED YET, ASOH?

I NEED TO DOUBUCHECK THE NUMBERS.

IT'S A FUNNYTHING ABOUT BUDGETS...

NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, THERE'S ALWAYS A SPREADSHEET ERROR THAT MAKES IT ALL AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY.

I DOWNSIZED THE "EASE OF USE" LAB BECAUSE THERE'S NO BUDGET FOR A STAFF.

THEY HAVE A BUDGET, I PUT IT ON THE BACK OF THESE TWO-YEAR PHOTOCOPIES!

WELL, THEY LIVED BY THE SWORD AND DIED BY THE SWORD.

YOU MIND IF HUM?

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The California Tech
Dear Students and others concerned:

It is a mark of our humanity that we are consciously aware of many aspects of our lives. Unlike the sparrow which noisily visit me each morning, and who, I presume have little awareness of anything but their present, we humans have detailed recollections of our pasts and general expectations and maybe fears about our futures. Oh we might not think about it all of the time, but there are instances which jar something already within us.

The reactions to Michael's death have varied depending on how well the person knew him and what his death has brought up for them. Over the last few days I've had a chance to listen to some of Michael's friends as they've talked about who he was and what he meant to them. They expressed a variety of feelings: sadness, a sense of feeling numb or that his death seems unreal, anger, guilt. Some felt all these things at different times since they learned of his death. Some of his friends seemed to understand the reasons why he took his life. Others struggle with partial understandings. All of them talked with caring and respect for Michael.

I've also talked with people who didn't know Michael very well and they too shared feelings of disbelief and sadness, but they also talked about their uncertainty of having these feelings or expressing them. They weren't just close to him so why are they feeling so upset and sad? Do they have a right to feel this sadness when the loss of others' is greater because they know Michael better? The loss of someone or your friend or yourself, even know, dies, be it through disease, accident or even as now, their own hand. All of us have become especially distressed with a friend, an acquaintance, or perhaps just someone in our world, but whom we did not even know, dies, be it through disease, accident or even as now, their own hand. All of us have some troubles dealing with this, although to different extents. It seemed appropriate therefore to have Dr. Kevin Austin, the Director of our Counseling Center, to write about ways to cope.

Jean Paul Revel

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By Jean-Paul Revel & Kevin Austin

The California Tech

DEAN special edition

April 9, 1999
**The Caltech Progressive Coalition welcomes students, faculty, and staff across all disciplines and backgrounds who are interested in working hard for peace, human rights, and economic justice.** We are active participants in the nationwide campus movement against the sanctions and bombing in Iraq, and we will be posting information, contact Byron Pitlhour at byron@cco.caltech.edu.

**Catholic Big Brothers, Inc. needs YOU to lend a child a helping hand in a non-school hour-les program where children ages 7 to 14 volunteer mentors work together to improve reading, writing, and arithmetic skills. Sessions are located at the Northwest Pasadena Mentoring Center, Villa Park Community Center, 363 East Villa Street. Catholic Big Brothers has been serving volunteers and children of all faiths since 1925. For more information call 800-463-4066.

**Metooing Center, Villa Park, 2000.** (1989). The report, titled "The Summer Employment Opportunities for a Youth Sports Program Offers Every Tuesday in Student Activities and is to enhance the quality of lives of children. We have the time we have the need. Goodwill industries of Southern California is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that is to enhance the quality of lives of people who have disabilities and other vocational disadvantages by helping them to become productive and self-sufficient through education, training, and employment. Please contact Donna Figueroa, Assistant Director, at 626-292-5867 or dina@administrations.caltech.edu.

**The University of Southern California Youth Sports Program offers summer employment opportunities for the six-week period from June 19 to July 31. Training sessions will take place June 18 and 19 and June 23 to 24. USC is looking for senior counselors, counselors, specialists in athletic disciplines, and counselor aides. For more information call 451-468-8851 or email adubois@usc.edu.

The last date to request any change to your 1998-99 Financial Aid is Friday, April 30, 1999. Requests for 1998-99 changes after April 30 will not be considered. Please contact the Financial Aid Office at ext. 6280 if you have any questions.

Mark your calendars! Prefrosh Weekend 1999 is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, through Sunday, April 18th. If you are interested in helping out with Prefrosh Weekend, please contact Dion Figueroa, Assistant Director of Admission's Office at 626-292-5867 or dina@administrations.caltech.edu.

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**The University of Southern California Youth Sports Program offers summer employment opportunities for the six-week period from June 19 to July 31. Training sessions will take place June 18 and 19 and June 23 to 24. USC is looking for senior counselors, counselors, specialists in athletic disciplines, and counselor aides. For more information call 451-468-8851 or email adubois@usc.edu.

The last date to request any change to your 1998-99 Financial Aid is Friday, April 30, 1999. Requests for 1998-99 changes after April 30 will not be considered. Please contact the Financial Aid Office at ext. 6280 if you have any questions.

Mark your calendars! Prefrosh Weekend 1999 is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, through Sunday, April 18th. If you are interested in helping out with Prefrosh Weekend, please contact Dion Figueroa, Assistant Director of Admission's Office at 626-292-5867 or dina@administrations.caltech.edu.

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