Web ventures

by David Goeken

The Internet is the birthplace of a powerful new marketplace - one which promises to revolutionize the way businessmen do business. To illustrate this point, Bill Gross, Chairman of idealab! and the youngest trustee of Caltech's board, gave an anecdote to the captive audience of aspiring entrepreneurs Wednesday in Beckmann Auditorium.

"I had gone shopping for a car on the Internet and found less than what I hoped," began Gross.

Gross hired a contractor to test-drive, so to speak, a Web site that would allow the user to choose exactly the car they wanted. However, since it was a test, they didn't include any of the functionality (like credit card validation and so on) that a real site would include. Instead, Gross told the contractor to sell just one car using Wizard of Oz behind-the-scene Web pages - and then to drive to a dealership, buy it and personally deliver it to the buyer's house.

The site went up on a Thursday night, and the next morning, the contractor called Gross with the news: "We sold four cars!" "Turn off the site!" Gross responded, and carsdirect.com was born.

Although there were five very different speakers at the Caltech Entrepreneur Club's forum, each put forth the same message: Entrepreneurship on the Internet is not easy, but it is rewarding. The panelists also included Scott Zimmerman, CEO of Storagepoint.com, Michelle Kraus, CEO of Opensales.com, Rob Ferber, founding technologist of eToys, Luis Villalobos, founder of Tech Coast Angels.

Each speaker addressed some of the requisites for business on the Internet, but the most stressed was the ability to learn new skills at "Web speed." For some companies, such as Netscape and Apache, this means opening up your product to developers' community via open source. For others, this means getting the very best people working on utilizing the full advantages of the Web. As Gross pointed out, the Web can make months into minutes.

The Year that Was...

by When Montgomery

When the fall term started, the largest frosh class in Caltech history arrived, along with a revamped Winnett, new convenience store (which proved to be at Catalina Island), and the Arizona Daily Star. In response, the dishwasher at Catalina broke, and the administration moved the annual event to Lake Arrowhead. Students hosted a benefit auction for victims of Hurricane Mitch - netting $4400. Finally, Nathan Schara and Eric Hale won the ME72 contest.

Returning from wild winter weather elsewhere in the country, techers savored the mild weather of Pasadena. Then it rained. Ming Chen won the Perpall Speaking Contest. ASCIT Movies reached a new low when the last reel of 'Das Boot' was not shipped - the ending was shown in Blacker Lounge. The Axiine estate one-upped Eli Broad with a $60 million donation for student financial aid. Graduating seniors were sighted in places as distant as Beckmann Institute.

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Caltech awards prize students

Scholars and Award winners shine and bask in greatness

Fellowships

Michael Atkin Watson Scholar to Belize, Morocco, Guatemala, Tanzania Physics and Engineering

John Niccolai Fulbright Scholar to Spain Mathematics

Michael Grebeck Fulbright Scholar to Sweden Engineering & Applied Sciences

Awards

Daniel Levy Froehlich Award Winner with Dr. Rajiv Dua

Ming Chen Haagen-Smit Award Winner with Maria Haagen-Smit

Andrew Childs Green Award Winner with Faculty Nominator Prof. Tom Tombrello

The ASCIT Budget sparked protest, resulting in a survey, and in true apathetic form, nothing changed. So, the ASCIT Movie Competition proved a great success, as was the "+100 Ways tech can Kill you" article, especially among Phys103b students. Elections went forward without any disputes.

As usual, lots of people won fellowships. Congratulations. The Powell-Booth Lab reopened, with new skylights to the projectors being broken every other week. The Mars Society told NASA how to go to Mars. Phantom Menace tied campus for a day. Luckily, Ditch Day was two days earlier. Usual antics ensued. A peacock was sighted at Avery. Now, CITnet2000 rolls on towards completion: workers with cable have been sighted in places as distant as Beckmann Institute. Tom Brokaw is to speak at Commencement. Dean Revel has not missed a Tech. And yes, the yearbook is in production.

Birds, fame, money, chaos - that was the year that was at Caltech...

...Or Was it?

The Usual Stuff

Dilbert: 4
Poetic Dean: 2

The Week's Features

Election: 3-4
Minutes Madness: 2
Minutes of the ASCIT BoD Meeting, May 28, 1999

Present: BoD minus Danny, Melvin, with Valerie Anderson, Heather Dean, and Bryan Eaton

Meeting called to order at 22:14.  

Dealing with Guests

It appeared to me that, by the time people realized there were more than four people in the ASCIT, it was too late to do anything about it.

The BoD approved $70 for funding of the first vegetarian cooking class with further funding pending ASCIT member participation and interest.

Meeting adjourned at 22:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Hanna Kim
ASCIT Secretary

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Minutes of the ASCIT BoD Meeting, May 31, 1999

Present: BoD minus Jeremiah (Jadrock comes in at 22:17 and Baldeck follows at 22:23 with Heather Duris and Bryan Eaton)

Meeting called to order at 22:15.  

Alan calls the meeting to order for only the second time in over a year.

Dealing with Guests

Heather and Brian - Bring a budget requesting funding to hold the Y Full Event, which will be like Graduates for except the graduates. The date is set for September 26, 1999, the beginning of the next class begins. This event would occur during the day and include lots of "wacky" sports events like inflatable water polo and human battle with water balloons with a big BBQ as well.

They also request funding for the Y Huntington Tea to be held on October 17, 1999, the Sunday after SURF seminar day. This event would be focused on encouraging interaction between the undergraduates and the facets of the ASCIT.

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Minutes of the ASCIT Excomm

June 2, 1999

A protest has been submitted regarding the announcement of joint-candidacy in the election for Senior Class President. Two concerns are outlined in the protest: the first is that the candidates forming a team did not do so in the beginning nomination before class begins. This event would occur during the day and include lots of "wacky" sports events like inflatable water polo and human battle with water balloons in a big BBQ as well.

They also request funding for the Y Huntington Tea to be held on October 17, 1999, the Sunday after SURF seminar day. This event would be focused on encouraging interaction between the undergraduates and the facets of the ASCIT.

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Thank you from the Senior Class

Dear Morgan Kossuer, Alice Huang, and the Members of the Commencement Committee,

The Senior Class is deeply grateful that the Commencement Committee will cover the cost of seniors' meals at this year's Senior Banquet. As our time at Caltech began with shared meals at Frosh Camp, it is especially generous of you to ensure that we will all be together for one final meal. We expect that this meal will come at considerable expense. Thank you again for your generosity.

Mike Astle
Erik Streed
Autumn Looijen
Senior Class Officers
Dorie, dig! If so, I would appreciate a my arrer represented (“XP” right. I sincerely believe she arrived at her new to be open to suggestions, since After (“XP” bur that they get done cor­ years and get~ each

know that I am typically a behind·the­ senior ease. I have watched my cat stretch in sloth. It is time to kick up the heels which tread our due without a strong unified desire to take
gaze we look into the future at our final year Caltech life. We are the survivors, the battle longer with us, the majority have overcome all order to reach this point in our Caltech ca­
books. There were people that needed to smile and love life just like her. So she put some cated athletes to put on events like the Spring
teaches and working with others as the student

not reject and a hesitated to accept. She took years of her life.

assure us an unforgettable experience.

May 28, 1999
Dear incoming freshmen,

It is with great excitement that I address you today, as this letter marks the beginning of your journey at Caltech. I hope that you are as eager as I am to embark on this thrilling adventure. As your President, I welcome you to the Class of 2003, and I look forward to seeing you grow and thrive here.

As you settle into your new surroundings, remember that you are part of a community that cares deeply about your success and well-being. We are here to support you, to challenge you, and to help you reach your full potential. Together, we can create an environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

I encourage you to actively engage with the campus, participate in extracurricular activities, and form lasting friendships. These experiences will enrich your academic journey and provide memories that will last a lifetime.

Let's work together to make the Class of 2003 a year to remember. With dedication, hard work, and a positive attitude, we can achieve great things. I believe in you, and I am confident that you will believe in yourself.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
President, Class of 2003

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June 4, 1999

**COMICS**

**DILBERT®** by Scott Adams

**FoxTrot** by Bill Amend

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**JUNIOR CLASS PRESIDENT**

Puneet Newaskar

Remember that orange booklet titled Class of 2001 that we received in the mail a few weeks before arriving at Caltech? Well, I was flipping through it the other day as I considered my decision to run for Junior Class President. It struck me that, despite the small size of our class, there were only a few people that had been a part of this booklet out of 222 names that I could honestly claim to know on a very personal basis. If you think about it, almost as soon as we get back from Fresh Camp we find ourselves caught up in a whirlwind of choices, problems and worries. Our paths begin to diverge as we pick houses, majors and friends. I can't think of anything besides Mudeo and non-too-far-away Graduation that really can bring us all together as a class. For that very reason, it is important that we support each other and work to make our class as strong as we can be.

The more important responsibility of the Junior Class President, however, is that of selecting the perfect keynote speaker for our commencement. Having someone who delivers, dramatic, inspiring, and widely-respected by the student body, addresses the crowd of seniors and proud parents assembled on the Court of Man for an event that we spend four years laboring for is very important. If given the opportunity to take charge of this on behalf of the Junior class, I'm confident that I will do it well. As E-Club President, getting hold of prominent speakers is something I was doing far as long as I've been at Tech. I have learned much about the challenges involved in dealing with it is that people want to and enjoy listening to, and in getting the speaker of choice to take time out to do it. I believe that my experience and enthusiasm for this task would definitely be a plus.

All said and done, what's important is that all of you who read this remember to vote! Thanks for your time.

Adam Lawton

I'm one of the dudes running for your Junior Class President. So what exactly does a Junior Class President do? Well, there are really only two big things that I'd be responsible for. For starters, I have to organize Mudeo, an annual roll-in-the-dirt and get-messy-fest. That shouldn't be too much trouble, since I'm Fleming's social chair and I know the right people to ask and can convince anyone to be our keynote speaker. Maybe all anyone to be our keynote speaker. Maybe all we need is one good idea to get everyone ready for the big day.

The second most important responsibility is in my opinion the most important one. It is holding a Wild Mud Pit, a very special and that others be organized so we can have a bang-up job with big-wigs in business, like Caltech's mentors. But that doesn't mean we have to have a businessman or a scientist as our speaker. It could even be someone who's famous for something besides his money or his discoveries. Personally, I think Chris Rock would make a pretty kick-ass commencement speaker. There's not much of a goal for a keynote speaker. Perhaps we should try to get someone who's too lorry a goal and much more important responsibility is that of selecting the perfect candidate to be the keynote speaker at our commencement. (Only two years away!) I've got all the pieces in place to do a bang-up job with this too. I've had plenty of experience dealing with big-wigs in business, like Caltech's mentors. But that doesn't mean we need to have a businessman or a scientist as our speaker. It could even be someone who's famous for something besides his money or his discoveries. Personally, I think Chris Rock would make a pretty kick-ass commencement speaker.