**Prince Andrew visits Caltech**

Prince Andrew, the Duke of York and third child of Queen Elizabeth of England, visited Caltech Thursday afternoon during a week-long tour of America. Heavy security surrounded the event and meant that only a few students were able to catch a glimpse of the Duke as he strolled across campus. The Tech was asked not to publish his itinerary ahead of time, and our reporter was threatened with arrest and thrown out of his approved place in the entourage.

The first stop of the short tour was Mudd Laboratory, where the Duke met with several scientists from Caltech and the U.S. Geological Survey. The Duke was then escorted by Kip Thorne, Professor of Theoretical Physics, and Halley Daisy, Director of Government Relations, across campus, stopping briefly in front of the bookstore. He ended his tour with a visit to the prototype of LIGO.

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**ASCITmovie: Charlie’s Angels**

Want free tickets? Find your favorite ASCIT movie rep.

**The California Tech**

Volume: CII, Number: 7

**The California Tech**

**SURF Perpall Semifinalists Announced by Tien Stafel**

The morning of Saturday, October 1, SURF Seminar Day kicked off at 10 a.m. with talks by SURF students in a myriad of sessions. The speakers are evaluated for the Perpall Speaking Competition, with the highest ranked speaker from each session chosen to compete in a semifinal round held in November. The semifinalists for SURF Seminar Day 2000 are:

- Rob Enright, Jonathan Dama, Justin Smith, Loren Hoffman, Gary Rybka, Timothy Crosby, Emilio Graff, Molly Swanson
- Will Farr, Tom Baehr-Jones, Rick Karmesny, Benton Maitse, Nicholas Gaude, Jane Garvey, Katrina Kohler, Erik Dill, Rebecca Shafey, Chris Hrista
- Ryan Sivonkysy, Elisa Chan, Yingbing Wang, Mark Rudner, Mark Bilinski, Caroline Gibbons, Rob Rutledge, Jianlan Wang
- Ram Srinivasan, Ronald Srinivasan, Florian Merkle, Kathryn Todd
- Nicholas Gerovac, Elaine Ou

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**TACIT performs Ibsen's 'Hedda Gabler'**

BY MOHI KUMAR

TACIT's production of Ibsen's Hedda Gabler opens tonight at 8:00 p.m. in Dabney Lounge.

The acting itself is excellent. Karen Kahler's interpretation of Hedda is very good. As the manipulative and arms-stroking manipulative(the play expresses), she is exquisite, yet seldom varies from her usual lifestyle of seduction, blackmail, death. Thea is also very good. As the genuine emotions; the inherent virility further emphasize Hedda's destructiveness. A couple of scenes also stand out for being powerfully and cleverly represented. One point, Parker's musical abilities are employed when, as Judge Brack, he plays the piano, using musical moods to heighten his dialogue with Hedda. In another instance, Lovborg slaps Hedda—a stage command not written in the text—giving Hedda the motive for later rage.

However, there are times when actors onstage but in the background detract from the conversational flow. One such instance is when, as Judge Brack, he plays the piano, using musical moods to heighten his dialogue with Hedda. In another instance, Lovborg slaps Hedda—a stage command not written in the text—giving Hedda the motive for later rage.

TACIT's Hedda Gabler is definitely a play you should see. The Duke has various engagements in America this week, many relating to science and technology. In New York earlier this week, he visited several e-commerce agencies and attended briefings on technology such as one by the New York New Multi Media Association. In Los Angeles, the Duke has already attended a conference on telecommunications and on Friday will tour Edwards Air Force Base and receive a briefing on the Joint Strike Fighter Programme, in which the Royal Navy/Air Force is a partner with the United States military. Of course, the Duke is not only attending these fairly serious occasions. In New York, he attended a reception at the Rockefeller Center, and in Los Angeles he will see both the new Disney Foundation Concert Hall and the Getty Museum when the latter opens an exhibition of Raphael drawings from the Royal Collection.

Prince Andrew was born on February 19, 1960, in Buckingham Palace, the first child to be born to a reigning English monarch in 103 years. After his schooling, he joined the Royal Navy as a pilot. He saw active service only six months into his naval career when the war for the Falkland Islands broke out with Argentina in 1982. Prince Andrew was created The Duke of York at the time of his marriage to Sarah Ferguson in 1986. This marriage resulted in two children, and a good deal of scandal for the Royal family when the two divorced in 1996. The Prince currently serves as a staff officer for the Ministry of Defence, and balances his official royal duties with his military career.
Last week we told you about the LACMA exhibit “Made in California.”

As a part of the exhibit, the LA Philharmonic is doing a “Made in California” concert this week-end.

This concert is also being billed as the “All Copland” concert. Now try to guess what they’ll be playing.

Yes, that’s right, the fabulous music of both John Tesh and Yanni. Jokes aside the Philharmonic will be doing four pieces of Copland: Symphonic Ode, Music for the Motion Pictures, Old American Songs, and Appalachian Spring, Suite.

I’m not precisely sure how this concert ties back to California as Copland grew up in Brooklyn and the best known piece here is Appalachian Spring, but the LA Philharmonic is in Los Angeles which is in California...good enough. (She says: Copland composed some of these pieces while he was in Hollywood.)

As for the pieces, the first is the Symphonic Ode, which was the piece that really launched Copland’s career. It was written for the 50th anniversary of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and has all the hallmarks of a piece about the big city.

That is, there is a good deal of hustle and bustle and noise. Amidst the noise there are moments of the stillness of the quieter hours of the night.

Some have argued that the piece is meant to represent the city of New York that Copland grew up in, but he himself said that he tried to leave it ambiguous. Is it the city?

Which one? Listen and find out. Music for Movies is precisely what the title implies, music written for film.

The allure of writing for Hollywood is, of course, the money. (Did you really think John Williams works with Spielberg for the thrill?)

Consequently, Copland’s entry to the field was for the same reason.

The music that he took away from these films and put together in this piece is those that he thought could stand apart from the visual images that are so important to the medium.

The three movies he took the music from to make this piece were The City, Of Mice and Men, and Our Town.

Each of which is meant to give the impression of the wide open prairies that Copland is so fond of. Old American Songs is yet another piece that is pre-

It really takes a bit out of columnists’ sails when the titles of the music are so helpful for discovering what the piece is about. Anyway the songs included are all older songs some in the minstrel tradition.

There is really not enough room to do the descriptions justice so let me say that the high light is “I Bought Me a Cat” if for no other reason that the song is so elegantly dressed people make sounds that seem like the belong in Old MacDonald.

This piece is special this week-end, because it is being sung by one of the great voices of our time, Marilyn Horne. Though she has retired from singing opera, she still does songs and special events. Appalachian Spring, Suite other than being an awkward title is a suite from the ballet with the name that you are going to have to guess.

It’s an absolutely beautiful piece that you have undoubtedly heard before.

Critics argue that this one piece can be considered a microcosm of Copland’s entire career. Whether that is true or not, I have no idea.

The suite is based upon the idea of a bride and her beloved married and settling down in the Appalachian Mountains in the spring.

The most memorable part is the “Simple Gifts” song that is also featured in Old American Songs.

Performances are Saturday and Sunday at 2:30pm at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Tickets are $3 with student ID and go on sale two hours before the show.

Don’t forget to catch the pre-concert lecture one hour before the performance. This week’s lecturer is Jack Kennedy, a local composer who was featured at last year’s concert of new music on campus.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I was amused by Jason Melzter’s article saying that ugly people are a disadvantaged minority group. He may have a point, but wrote to caule exception to his statement that affirmative action claim “that certain people, primarily because of their genetic makeup are put at a societal disadvantage.”

Affirmative action is really targeted to individuals because of the cultural background, not their genetic makeup. There are many individuals who may class themselves culturally as Hispanic, for example, who may look distinguishable from Europeans and Africans.

It is not a test of what is in their genes, but where they were from.

Since most people hear of job opportunities through direct refer- ral, this makes it much more likely that they will be dominated by people from the same culture. Fellowships may draw attention to opportunities that people may not have heard a because people they know have never been there. If you would like to know if you socialize with a diverse or restrict culture ask yourself some questions. Do you socialize equally with women and men? Do you socialize with people from diverse backgrounds? Do you know a disabled person? What important opportunities has your life led you hear about from a friend or relative? Affirmative action programs offer incentives for individuals to bridge culture gaps. If you really want to stop affirmative action, the best way to try to make it unnecessary by expanding your personal circle of friends to include people of different cultures.

Rosalyn Hunter, Sr. Research Assistant Biology
The ambiguity of education

By William Fung

After attending Caltech for a little over five weeks, I have noticed some interesting trends. People stay up very late. The food, in politically correct terms, is not agreeable with the tongue. And, of course, classes are a bore? Not quite. How about nap time? Sitting at the top of the lecture halls and looking down. I see a substantial number of my peers taking a nice doze. At times, I even find myself in that situation, but, for the most part, I try to stay awake to listen to lectures on math, chemistry, and physics. After all, I am paying $50,575 a year to attend this fine institution, so I should get my money’s worth. However, a greater concern is the process of education. If students are sleeping during the lectures or just not showing up, how can they expect to learn? I can envision those who automatically object and say they don’t need to listen to the professor to learn the material. Well, good job. But for the majority of the students, including myself, learning something new involves a teacher of some form, whether it be a professor or a teaching assistant.

As I quote from Michael Hariri, a fourth-year graduate student (and my physics TA), “People learn from examples.” Thus, if students are sleeping, how can they learn? Isn’t that the point of coming here? While some will adamantly beg to differ with me, most will agree. Well, how can we improve the learning conditions here? From a workload standpoint, it is basically impossible to do all the required reading, problem sets, papers, quizzes, and midterms and still get eight hours of sleep, as recommended by many agencies. A method for solving this predicament which affects all students is to decrease the amount of work. As students run their eyes across the above statement, they’re ready to praise me, but as other members of the Caltech community glance at my assertion, I can just imagine them coming after me to put an end to all this nonsense. Essentially, such a proposition would lower the expectations of this institution, which could be a good or bad thing, depending on your perspective.

One thing is certain: the sleep situation is ingrained in the educational system because of the large block of time demanded of us students to attend class and complete assignments. This condition can be summarized as “the ambiguity of education.” As we strive for a better academic atmosphere with a more rigorous pace, we are compromising the standard of education by depriving our students of sleep. Of course, others are quick to point out that the lack of sleep is not just due to the workload, but is also the result of the blatant profanity of a commodity called time.

I beg to differ. First of all, people don’t work 24/7, period. To maintain good health and a sense of sanity, it is necessary to relax with some type of stress-relieving activity, whatever may be your preference. Second, what is college without some fun? After all, students are probably more efficient workers when they take breaks rather than working straight. To sum this up, we can view the ambiguity of education using the metaphor of a production possibilities curve; increasing one factor will decrease the other. Basically, raising the rigor of education decreases the effectiveness of education. But isn’t the philosophy of this institution to defy the odds? In that case, I suppose the lack of sleep and the notorious dozing off of students in lecture at Caltech does not adversely affect the quality of education, as strongly proven by the success of the alumni of Caltech.

Eh, whatever. Well, the most important lesson you should learn is that the next time you go to sleep, whether at night or in class, approximately $5.51 goes down the drain per hour (assuming a 11-week term that includes finals). If you would like to respond to the comments in this article, please feel welcome to e-mail me at william@its.caltech.edu.

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The band was founded in 1995 by singer Alicia Perrone and bassist Victor James. You can visit them online at www.simonsinger.com. They are produced by Chicago Kid Productions here in L.A. Strangely, they are sponsored by Jaegermeister. Even though this has meant some free publicity, every time they play, they give away Jaeger-trinkets and the place where they play has Jaegermeister specials.

You can hear Simon Stinger at MP3.com, and buy their this CDs well as their first album at www.cdbaby.com/simons2.
ASCIT Minutes

October 23, 2000

Present: BoD - Emma; Guests: Page - Anthony Salter, Joseph Vega; Donut - Jonathan Dama; Big T - Erik Dill; CRC - Mark Barrett

Meeting called to order at 10:10 pm.

Guests

Page requests Multihouse funding for the off-campus party they organized at the end of Rotation. The amount spent was $556.33, corroborated by various receipts. They also ask for their yearly share of the Interhouse Memorial Fund for a party they will be having in November.

Jon's visit was transitory as he lingered only a moment to pick up the compensation for work completed for the ASCIT web project. Scan writes him a $1000 check.

The ever-assiduous Big T editor, Erik Dill, assures us that he pointed as of the CRC's findings Eric will get the official report by the BoC.

Page requests Multihouse funding for the off-campus party they organized at the end of Rotation. The amount spent was $556.33, corroborated by various receipts. They also ask for their yearly share of the Interhouse Memorial Fund for a party they will be having in November.

Melinda reports that things are cleared up with the Ritz-Carlton Huntington. She still needs to pick up promised donations for the ASCIT formal from last year.

The BoD will reimburse for Page's rotation party. They also received $200 from the IMF.

Meeting adjourns at 12:01 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason C. Cardema

Barclays Capital

JAPAN INTERNSHIP Information Session

Are you a freshman, sophomore, or junior who wants a meaningful, research-based summer internship? Are you interested in the Japanese culture? Then save the date for this presentation.

When: Friday – November 17, 2000
12:00 noon to 1:00 PM

Where: Career Development Center 414 S. Holliston Avenue 3rd floor conference room

*Space is limited to the first 30 people. Light lunch will be provided.

Contact Angela Wood (ext. 6364) at the Career Development Center for more information.

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Cal Tech Moore Labs, Room 70 Monday, November 8th 10:00am-1:00pm

Register at: www.barcap.com/graduatecareers

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Investment Management Division
Quantitative Resources Group
Presentation on Portfolio Risk Monitoring
Center for Student Services–Dining Room 5
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

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November 14th through November 28th
Please contact your Career Services Center
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Dean's Corner

Snow White goes to Caltech

by Jean-Paul Revel

I'm sure you remember the story of Snow White in the classic fairy tale. It's a tale of beauty and intrigue, with the queen's jealous stepmother trying to trap her. The story serves as an allegory for the rankings of the best universities in the country, and the quest to determine who comes out ahead? Is it beauty, talent, or a combination of factors? It turns out that the rankings are influenced by the university's ability to attract the best students, and that ability is measured in annual rankings. However, what causes the change in rankings is often overlooked. It is interesting to examine the additional refinement to the methodology of ranking that universities employ. Do they have a system to measure the impact of academic quality on the rankings? It is a good question to ask, and one that needs further investigation.

It is interesting to examine the changes in the rankings. It turns out that US News and World Report, as well as some institutional researchers, who told us that one of the sixteen measures of academic quality was having a disproportionately large impact. That factor turned out to be "the amount of money schools spend per student on education." The argument is made that, in schools which have "sizeable" research programs, these funds will benefit graduate, not undergraduate, education. After finding to eliminate that advantage, Princeton, Harvard and Yale came out ahead. Obviously none of these institutions wastes money on graduate programs. Or maybe they don't have sizeable research programs. Actually I would argue that universities with large and, perhaps more important, excellent research programs are particularly well suited to undergraduate education. For one thing, top students will be often be attracted by the research opportunities. At Caltech any way, many, if not the majority of, students spend a lot of time doing research in various professors' laboratories. In the Bi 80 class that I run with Prof. E. Schuman I am constantly impressed by the sophistication of the research students have done (or at least participated in) while here. Research is an important part of graduate education as indicated by, say, the popularity of the SURF program. In spite of losing first place, we can be proud of how we come out in this survey. Our students' SAT scores are the best in the nation, on par with Harvard's. We have the best faculty as measured by their research rank (they are 91st as an institution, but I don't know the basis for that determination). Like Yale, which finishes just ahead of us, 78% of our classes have fewer than 20 students. Our student to faculty ratio still is 3:1, compared to 8:1 at Harvard, 18:1 at UCLA and 19:1 at UCSD. There is, however, a small blemish in this beautiful image (recall the saying that a small imperfection in fact enhances beauty). Caltech's beauty spot is in its graduation rates, given as 82%, comparable to that at UC Berkeley, Vanderbilt or UCLA. These schools, however, are ranked 20th and lower overall. Universities in the top ten (except for us) have rates better than 90%. With students as highly selected as ours, one would expect every last one to graduate. Just why we lag behind I do not know. Is it because the students leave early to escape the deluge of material they are exposed to (the famed fire hose)? (Anecdotally, that does not seem to be the case.) Is it because our students, in spite of their intrinsic ability, are under so much pressure that they are unable to perform at the level they are capable of? Perhaps so, but again, anecdotally, it does not look likely. However, if you should feel you are in either category please come in to talk about. Most likely we know someone who can help. Rather than focusing on pessimistic scenarios, let's note that there could be upbeat reasons for our less than tops record: perhaps our students take up opportunities that are "too good to miss," joining (or creating) fledging dot-coms, pursuing their bright ideas, and developing new inventions, i.e. getting some real life experience rather than staying in school to finish their formal education (anecdotally, not a rare instance, yet not common enough). Someone needs to look hard in this mirror.

Jean-Paul Revel

November 3, 2000

The California Tech
The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club (CBDC) continues its offerings of dance classes and parties for the new term. Begin West Coast Swing - taught by a professional instructor. The weekly series starting Mon 2 Oct'00: $20 series for undergraduates, $30 series for others. The lessons will be held from 7:30 to 9:00 pm on Mon in the Winnett Lounge with a 1/2 hr. practice period after each lesson. Refreshments will be provided, and no partner is required. For last minute changes see www.caltech.edu/~ballroom or call Don at 626-795-3103.

Ballroom Dance Party: free: 9:30 to 11:30 pm Mon 6 Mar '00 in Winnett Lounge. On a trial basis the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club has started a series of weekly mini parties after our regular lesson on Mondays. The Viennese Waltz lesson ends at 9:00. You are welcome to join in the practice session which lasts until 9:30 pm followed by the party and open dancing until 11:30. Snacks and beverages will be provided and you need not bring a partner.

All members of the Caltech Community are invited to audition for the TACIT production of Shakespeare's Othello in Ramo Auditorium at the following times: Sat., Nov. 11, 2-5 pm; Sun., Nov. 12, 7:30-10:30 pm; Wed., Nov. 15, 7:30-10:30 pm; Sat., Nov. 18, 7:30-10:30 pm. See www.caltech.edu/~tacit for related information as it becomes available. Othello will be performing in winter term on three consecutive weekends beginning Feb. 16, 2001.

Two-time Emmy Award winner Heather Tom, Stacy Keanan, and Emily Kay star in Jack Heifner's "Vanities" on Fri., November 3, at 8 p.m. in Caltech's Beckman Auditorium in Pasadena. To purchase tickets in person, this performance is priced at $29.00, $25.00, and $21.00.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group: looking for a safe and supportive place to discuss issues that concern you, being out or coming out, dealing with family, coping with a homophobia-hating school, and being GLBT at Caltech? Want somewhere just to make new friends? We invite you to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 8:15 until 10:15 pm in the Health Center Lounge. This is a confidential meeting and does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation—only that she is willing to be supportive in this setting. The group usually discusses a particular relevant topic and then moves on to the general discussion. Refreshments are served. If you would like more information, please call ext. 831.

The Caltech/JPL Flying Club Fall Membership Meeting: The Aero Association of Caltech will hold its Fall membership meeting at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, November 14, in room 201 East Bridge. Featured speaker Dick Rutan will be presenting the topic: Adventure Is The Essence Of Life. Dick Rutan set a world record of flying solo around the world in a non-stop flight around the Voyager aircraft in 1986. Rutan has also attempted to fly a balloon non-stop around the World and most recently made a flight to the North Pole in May, which ended with the AN 2 aircraft breaking through the ice after landing at the North Pole and sinking into the Arctic Ocean.

Anyone interested in aviation, or in learning to fly is invited to attend the meeting. For more information about the club or the Fall Meeting, contact Elaine Ou at ouw@its.caltech.edu.

Music of the late 20th century to be featured in April 12 Dubney Lounge Concert. The Division of Humanities and Social Science will offer a free concert, open to the Caltech community. The concert, open Apr 12, 8:00 PM, in Dubney Lounge, as part of the division's music offerings for benefit of students enrolled in music courses and the community at large. Members of The St. Matthew's Chamber Orchestra, Thomas Neenan, Music Director and Conductor (and Lecturer in Music at Caltech) will be joined by composers William Kraft and John M. Kennedy for an informal look at music at the turn of the new century. Featured will be conversations with the composers and Neenan about the music to be performed which will include Kraft's "Concerto for Percussion and Chamber Ensemble" and works by Kennedy, Tan Dun and others.

The National Academy for Nuclear Training is offering $2,500 scholarships to eligible students majoring in nuclear engineering, power generation health physics, electrical or mechanical engineering, or chemical engineering with nuclear or power options. Applications must be submitted by February 1, 2001.

The Financial Aid Office has applications and information on the following as well as additional undergraduate scholarships. All qualified students are encouraged to apply. Our office is located at 15 S. Wilson, second floor.

*The Measurement Science Conference (MSC) has established scholarships to students in an Engineering or Science or Quality Assurance degree program. The scholarship program places emphasis on papers or projects that discuss the advancement of measurement science technology. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, have a overall grade point average of 3.2 or higher, completed at 24 units of upper division courses in Engineering or Science degree or five courses in a Masters Degree Program in Quality Assurance.

*The California Tech Mints Software annually awards merit-based scholarships and fellowships to Caltech undergraduates who have demonstrated ability and special aptitude in computer science. The award for the junior year consists of a $2,500 scholarship. The award for the senior year may consist of either a $2,500 or $5,000 scholarship. In addition, one or two applicants are invited to become Green Hills Fellows. Applicants should be second term sophomores with a GPA of 3.2 or higher. The selection criteria include programming ability, academic performance, and faculty and peer recommendations. Applicants must submit an application form, current academic transcript, and three letters of recommendation, preferably from faculty or employers familiar with the student's work. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Entries must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by November 3, 2000.

Events

Science, Ethics, and Public Policy Lecture Series for Fall Quarter 2000: Dr. Myres W. Jackson, Assistant Professor of the History of Science, Williams University, The Standardization of Aesthetic Properties: Physics and Music in Nineteenth-Century Germany, Thursday, November 9, 2000, 4:00 p.m.

Room 25 Baxter Building

The William and Myrtle Harris Distinguished Lectureship in Science and Civilization presents Dr. Peter Galison, Professor of the History of Science and of Physics, Harvard University, Poincare's Maps and Einstein's Clocks, Friday, December 1, 2000, 4:00 p.m.