Ramos-Horta to speak at Caltech

BY KEVIN BARTZ

He wasn’t even thirty at the time, and his mountainous East Timor homeland was just then cracking the one-million mark in population. But in 1975, young Jose Ramos-Horta left his seven surviving siblings behind—four brothers had already died at the hands of Indonesian puritans—for a trip to the Big Apple to rally United Nations support for his campaign against violence by his country’s military.

Nearly 24 years later, he finally succeeded—to the tune of a newly democratic East Timor and a Nobel Prize for “sustained efforts to hinder the oppression of a small people.”

But while at night in Rama Auditorium, Ramos-Horta travels from East to West to share his nonviolent doctrine with a Caltech audience as part of a whirlwind speaking tour aimed at spreading his message to a somewhat larger people: the United States.

This year’s first in the Caltech Y’s Social Activism Speakers Series (SASS), Ramos-Horta’s presentation, “Peacemaking: The Power of Nonviolence,” targets students unsure of how to use engineering skills to a socially productive end. Delivered in conjunction with fellow East Timorese author and petitioner Matthew Jardine, the lecture promises slide shows and speeches on “how to prevent war and terror,” in the words of SASS member Jennifer Caron ’03.

“I think it’s important that our students understand that the repercussions they do has wider implications, both in California, the US and abroad,” said Postdoctoral Scholar Ravinder Bhatia, who spearheaded administrative efforts to bring Ramos-Horta to Caltech.

A native of East Timor himself, Bhatia leads and coordinates East Timor Action Network Pasadena, the local branch of a nationwide humanitarian group dedicated to ending Indonesian violence.

“Specifically, I’m thinking about weapons technology,” he explained. “Many of the weapons used against the East Timorese people, the F-16 aircraft for instance, were actually made by Western nations.”

Bringing students’ attention to such “wider implications,” he insisted, is tantamount to SASS’s stated goal of “introducing the Caltech student body, as well as the public, to people who have dedicated their lives to the improvement of society.”

In fact, since its inception three years ago, SASS has hosted a plethora of public notables running the gamut from media personality A. my Goodman to Nobel Prize-winning landmine activist Jody Williams.

Despite their breadth, all of SASS’s sponsored lectures strive to “inspire Caltech students to apply their scientific/technical training to help resolve local and global issues.”

And who better to spread this message of peace than the man who, in the words of Bhatia, “has really been the major voice of the East Timorese people over the last 25 years?”

Especially in the backdrop of America’s latest war on the Taliban in Afghanistan, Peaceful Justice Coalition (PJC) ringleader Michael Russo ‘02 pegged the timing of Ramos-Horta’s arrival as “particularly appropriate” —“especially having tagged East Timor as ‘low on our priority list right now.’”

“He’s in Afghanistan; hopefully, we can coordinate our efforts in the context of civil liberties,” he offered, “and stuff that the CIA and the US has done that has caused suffering in the world.” In this sense, fellow PJC cohort Peter Dennedy-Frank, considered Ramos-Horta’s message “a valuable one in that he talks about peace in an area that has been racked by war in recent years.”

Indeed, despite East Timor’s noted success since winning independence and a democratic government, the infant nation still struggles in matters of diplomacy, facing what Caron called “a devastating threat for quite some time now.”

Amidst his arrival on campus, Ramos-Horta remains at the forefront of a battle to free some 80,000 East Timorese refugees held hostage in Indonesia, the liberty of whom is a prime concern for Bhatia.

“I hope Dr. Ramos-Horta can address the issue appropriately that it’s not about making the best technical device or the most money,” he offered. “It’s about the human use and making students aware of these types of issues. Perhaps this research. Likewise, Dennedy-Frank connected such technological discretion with his own dreams of world peace. “Basically,” she maintained, “your choices are not war and peace. It’s war or peace. And we hope that you come to this event to make a decision.”

Students charged for course catalogues

BY IAM PARVEEN BILAL

Apparently the new year has some changes in student expenses, for instance the previously free Catalogue is now sold at $10 to upperclassmen and the Health Insurance has gone up by $50 in addition to a policy of non-refundability.

Students have been shocked by these unexplained alterations. I decided to go up to the Vice President of Student Affairs, Christopher E. Brennan, and talk his comments on the above issues.

With regards to the catalogue pricing, he broke out to say that there would be more information on the causes of the change next month but acceded that it was partially a result of the Student Affairs budget cuts.

At the moment, the Course Catalogue for 2001-02 is available free of cost to all new students and faculty but is $10 for anyone else. However, he stated, that this should not be a problem because the catalogue is completely available online.

Bringing in environmental issues such as energy conservation, he went on to say, “We are using a lot of trees for something that is not necessary. We have to get used to trying to function with less paper!”

Hence, due to all the aforementioned causes, a lower number of catalogues were printed this year and hence were charged to fill in the shortage of supply.

The other worry that has struck students is the raise in health insurance.

Prof. Brennan regarded this as part of an attempt to limit the sky-rocketing cost to the Institute of the student health insurance.

Please see Catalogues on page 3
Marcus reports from Kosovo

The aftermath of war is not a single event. There are many different kinds of war, and many different ways in which war affects society. For the last two weeks I’ve been bicycling across Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo exploring these different facets.

My cycling began in Novi Sad, a modern and picturesque city in northern Serbia particularly targeted by NATO in its 1999 bombings. Strolling through the city center, I felt like a traditional European tourist awestruck by the ride through destruction that dominated the pedestrian streets. But wandering out to the Danube riverbank I was struck by something else.

I have seen damage on the scale of Novi Sad’s suspension bridge. One tower nosedived into the river bringing with it several sections of roadway and leaving the rest of the bridge slanted, teetering above the water.

Other targets I witnessed in Novi Sad and Belgrade reflected the same pattern. Widespread civil destruction, bridges flacked into oblivion and missile-ripped government centers. Damage I have seen in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Macedonia—bullet holes and mortar craters—does not compare to the awesome destructive power of America. Our mark is like the footprint of a man walking, obliterated, after town, obliterated. First the Albanian homes were destroyed, to prove there are no good guys, the Albanians responded in kind to the Serbs and “collaborator” gypsies since Serban troops were gone down.

Now all of Kosovo is in ruins.

But I’ve realized something about this perception of destruction. It’s not the physical destruction that matters. When I was in Belgrade I passed by a car accident. Two cars were piled together, the front with its windshield smashed, and laying some 40 feet away was old man, lifeless. A stream of blood leaked from his mouth into a puddle on the asphalt, affirming that this was the look of death. It was a powerful, fortuitous encounter.

I realized that the shock of war’s destruction is not in the image of a concrete building crumbling to the ground. While this may be shocking, it pales in comparison to the shock of numbers of lifeless forms like the old man’s scattered through the wreckage. As I spent more time in Kosovo I got used to its scene of rubble. But the ongoing human experiences in Kosovo are continuously poignant. Orphans with troubled memories and ethnic groups separated by NATO troops, these were the things I never got used to.

Commentary on attacks

My friends and I have spent the last week and a half grieving for the victims in New York (The commentary was received in mid-Sept.—Ed.). But these feelings are not new to me as they are to most Americans. This same cycle of grief has gone on much of the past 20 years. Being from Iran, I first experienced this sense of grief and loss was during the Iran-Iraq war. As a teenager in the 80’s, I cried equally for the Iraqi and Iranian victims of that war. As a few older, now older man-made tragedies elicted my empathy: the US-Iraq war, the genocide in the Balkans, the plight of the Palestinians.

Throughout it all, nothing depressed me more than the US attack on Iraq. In this case, a whole country was bombed back into the preindustrial age. The infrastructure necessary to civilization was shattered, and 9000 homes turned into “collateral damage.” This

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THE TYRANNY OF EDUCATION

BY JIALAN WANG

In America, "Trust no one," is the motto, especially pertinent to those with authority. But one kind of authority escapes much of the suspicion associated with politicians, lawyers, and police. Us. Although we are somewhat regarded as social underachievers, scientists command a sort of respect that no one else does. Despite a certain "mad scientist" archetype, scientists in general are deemed more trustworthy, honest, hardworking, and rational than pretty much any other segment of society. Sure, we might unwittingly make discoveries and invent technologies that wreak havoc on the human race, but we aren't bigoted, we don't rape people, and we don't rob banks. In our ivory towers while pursuing pure knowledge, we are innocent from the evils of the world.

A look around campus seems to show that this belief approximates the truth. The scientific community is largely composed of unmaterialistic, open-minded, and relatively harmonious individuals who are certainly more well-behaved than society at large. So it seems we are deserving of the special respect we get, and that education is the key to a better world.

In fact, higher education seems not only to be praiseworthy but actually indispensable nowadays. It is hard to even get a decent job without a college degree. But is all of this education really necessary? Furthermore, is the pursuit of knowledge really that much nobler than, say, the pursuit of building things out of wood or growing corn?

As America's educated elite, we can scarcely even fathom these as valid questions, much less answer them in a reasonable manner. It is fairly easy to establish the need for the general populace to be literate and to have basic knowledge of arithmetic and history and the need for some people to become scholars. However, it is a different matter altogether to treat those with more education better and to make it difficult to get by without it. One might immediately counter that education is important for mandatory in our society, and that we are in fact struggling just to minimally educate the masses. But this is exactly the point - if education were not so integral to success, it wouldn't be such a big issue. Those who aren't lucky enough to become educated are effectively screwed, barring the minute possibility of becoming a teenage pop star or a successful stripper.

The fact is that our society has been built around the necessity of education. Consider by analogy the automobile. In most places in America, it is necessary to have a car in order to be successful - simply to carry on normal activities like go to work, buy groceries, and visit the doctor. Sure, it technically is a choice whether or not to own a car, but it is such an inconvenience that it is not truly a choice. In most countries around the world, society is not structured with the assumption that people have cars, and so they live perfectly well without them. So could the case with education.

As a Caltech student and future scientist, I subscribe to the belief in the nobility of education. But I am hard pressed to explain exactly why, and it sounds uncomfortably like so much propaganda. It doesn't seem fair that someone who has no interest in academics must either go through four expensive years of classes they dislike or be resigned to a working-class income and an inferior status. Everyone talks about expanding one's horizons in college, but we only seem to expand them in the direction of abstraction and sophistication, neglecting many of the simpler aspects of life.

In the end the skills we value are just arbitrarily chosen. This whole debate may just be a matter of the subjectivity of values. It is just important just to realize that our path is not the only or best path in life. Something we never learn in school is how to empathize, even with people who aren't as "smart" as we are.

SAVE THE DATE!

Oct. 18, 2001

CALTECH

Fall Career Fair 2001

10:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Meet company representatives!

Beckman Mall
INVESTMENT STRATEGIES THAT ARE CLEAR AND CONCISE, EVEN IF OUR NAME ISN'T.

Aside from our name, we've always been in favor of making things simple. So contact us for smart, easy investment techniques to help you reach your financial goals.

TIAA-CREF.org or call 1.800.842.2776

Managing money for people with other things to think about.
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Our VISA is a straightforward, honest card. No gimmicks. No hidden fees. Just:
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- NO annual fee
- NO cash advance fee
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  - Student credit limits from $500 to $1,000 and more.
  - Plus, you can access this VISA at our on-campus ATMs!

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NOT YET A MEMBER? All it takes to join is a $5 deposit in our high-yield, federally insured savings account, and a 25¢ membership fee. Just visit our on-campus branch and you can apply for your low-cost VISA at the same time.

NCUA Your savings federally insured to $100,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government agency. Equal opportunity lender.
OUR CEO HAS VOLUNTARILY SLASHED HIS PAY FROM SIX MILLION PER YEAR TO FOUR.

IN A WRITTEN STATEMENT HE SAID HE WANTS TO "SHARE THE PAIN."

DO YOU FEEL BETTER NOW?

I MAKE MY OWN UNDERPANTS FROM SANDWICH BAGS.

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T BECOME A TEACHER SO I CAN EDUCATE THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD EDUCATE THE MINIONS OF TOMORROW SO THEY'LL STOP BELIEVING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW.

MAYBE I'LL JUST EAT THIS DONUT AND GO TO WORK.

DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE DREAMS I CAN CRUSH?

THIS AIR IS FOR EMPLOYEES ONLY. YOU NEED TO SUPPLY YOUR OWN AIR.

MMP NPP MRR MMPH.

YES, I KNOW YOU BRING YOUR OWN AIR, BUT YOU STILL USE OUR GRAVITY.

FBM GMP RRR.

IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK, COULD YOU HOVER?

OMG! OMG! OMG! OMG!

SEER? REALLY? I HATE BEING THE YOUNGEST!

WHO'S THE YOUNGEST?

YOU ARE ONE STUPID IGIANT AND YOU'RE RELATIVELY INTELLIGENT.

BUT YOU PAID ME A PAGE.

YOU TFCKING IDIOT!

YOU'VE EVER EATEN HAVING AN IMPRESSIVE PROBLEM TO YOURSELF?

IT'S NOT FAIR!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HOLD ON A SEC.

LET'S SEE...

THE RULES WERE INVENTED IN 1979...

IT'S 2001 NOW...

ADJUSTING FOR INFLATION & LEVY...

G7-

I TOLED YOU THE CASSEROLE WAS HOT, PETER.

I'M THE CAUSE OF OUR NETWORK OUTAGES.

SOME IDIOT IS USING OUR NETWORK ROOM FOR MEETINGS AND UNPLUGGING THE SERVER BECAUSE IT'S TOO NOISY.

A SERVER IS LIKE A LAWN TRIB.

RIGHT?

YEAH, A NOISY ONE.

HACK! HACK! HACK!

HERE YOU GO, DAD.

WHATS THIS?

I'M THE CHANCE! WHICH MAKES THIS MY CHANCE!

ON THE TABLE?

I WANT A HARD TEXTBOOK!

1 DESERVE A HARD TEXTBOOK!

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For the last 4 weeks now the major topic of attention and concern (in this country) has been the use of freshly fueled hijacked planes to attack significant landmarks in New York and Washington. We feel for the victims and their families and friends. We also worry about the larger consequences of these attacks, both indirectly on our economy, and on our relations with others in the world. Last weekend the US and Great Britain began a double pronged attack on Afghanistan. On the one hand we try to reassure the Afghans that we are well intentioned toward them, by dropping food packages. On the other we try to demolish the defenses of the present Afghan regime in the hope of catalyzing its own overthrow. It would be satisfying to flush out the people we believe were involved in the terrorist attacks, but of course we did not manage to achieve a similar aim in Iraq. The terrorists may well be preparing more “dirty tricks.” They tell us so (was that not a chilling statement by bin Laden, “God is with us” and not the tech staff). Contact feedback@cripplingdepression.com

All characters are fictional. Any resemblance to humans purely coincidental. Comics represent the views of the authors and not the tech staff.
Wanna learn to fly? The Aero Association of Caltech/JPL is holding its Fall General Membership meeting on Wednesday, October 24, at 7:00 p.m. in 210 E. Bridge. Come learn about our fleet of six aircrafts at nearby El Monte Airport and the opportunity to get your pilot’s license. The meeting will feature guest speaker Peter Garrison, who writes the “Technicalities” column for Flying Magazine. Both members and non-members are invited to attend. For more information about joining the Caltech/JPL Aero Association, contact Gilead Wurman, gwurman@its.caltech.edu, or Elaine On, eo@its.caltech.edu, x307.

Women in Science is a new group on the Caltech campus. It was started by a group of concerned female graduate students, and we are now looking for new members. Our first event will be a lunch and round-table discussion with Prof. Janet Henig and Prof. Marianne Bronner-Fraser on Oct 16 at noon in the carriage house. To register and reserve your lunch, please contact Leslie Tidwell at itsl@its.caltech.edu.

Our second event will be an Open Forum on Nov. 1 at 7pm at the Women’s Center. The discussion topic for this forum will be “Treatment of Women at Caltech: Past and Present”. This event is open to all members of the Caltech community. If you would like to learn more, please email Cynthia at cynthia@its.caltech.edu.

The Caltech Barbell Dance Club is offering two four-week classes this month: Lindy Hop and Cha-Cha. Lindy Hop, taught by professional instructor Sonny Watson, takes place on Mondays (Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29). Classes are $20 for the series or $5/lesson for all Caltech students, $28 (series) / $7 (per lesson) otherwise. Cha-Cha (Wed. Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31) is a taught and costs $12/session (free for fresh and students taking it for PE credit). All classes are held in Winnett Lounge from 7:30-9pm, followed by a half-hour practice session. Refreshments provided: no partner or experience is required. Additionally, on Mondays from 9:30-11pm we offer a mini-ballroom dance party - request or bring your own music! For more information, contact Megan Knight at knight@its.caltech.edu or visit our web page at http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ball/ballroom/.

Caltech Quiz Bowl is having practices every Wednesday and Thursday in SAT 65 at 7:30. We are a group of five people consisting of three upperclassmen and a couple of freshmen. This fall we have weekly practices consisting of trivia questions on everything from science to literature to sports. The Wednesday practice is particularly meant for new players. For more information see our website at www.its.caltech.edu/~quizbowl.

Feeling stressed??? Sign up for the Stress Management Workshop offered by the Student Counseling Center. The workshop will include a mixture of informal lecture and experiential exercises focusing primarily on basic relaxation techniques and stress management skills. The 3-session workshop will begin Mondays (November 5th, 12th, and 19th) at 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the Health Center Lounge. Space is limited, so please call 533-5 to reserve your place in the group.

The Dean of Students Office needs tutors in all areas—help is especially needed with the main Institute requirements e.g., MA1, MA2, PH1, PH2, CH1, etc. The pay is $10 an hour. A strong understanding of the subject matter, patience, and the ability to communicate well are the qualities needed as a tutor. If you are an upperclassman and would like to be a Deans’ tutor please stop by the Deans’ Office or see Sandra located in 102 Parson-Gams.

Athenaeum Tennis Ladder. All Athenaeum members, ages 18 and older, are invited to join a new managed tennis ladder. Once per month, ladder managers will post matches to be completed by the end of the month. Players call each other to arrange mutually agreeable date and time to play. The ladder includes four divisions (beginner, intermediate, advanced and expert) and is divided into a few ladder rungs of one another. Each of year trophies will be awarded. Signups welcome at any time, but respond by Oct 23, 2001, to be included in initial matches. For more information, contact Jane Waber at (818) 952-9941 or Rich Denison at (626) 358-6789 or email at athladd@caltech.edu.

Come learn to dance like your favorite music stars! The Caltech Dance Troupe start Saturday, October 6. No special clothing or shoes are needed. Classes are free to Caltech students and other members of the Caltech community who have completed the course. For more information see our website at www.its.caltech.edu/~dancecaltech.

The Caltech Y will be hosting Babywearing 101 and Beginners’ Hip-Hop Dance Classes on Tuesdays, 9-10:30pm, Braun multipurpose room beginning October 9. No experience is needed and no special clothing or shoes are needed. This free class will eventually lead to the fall quarter fee if you decide to join the class for the rest of the term. The fee for students is $10 and for non-students is $20. To register, email tvraupe@caltech.edu. Free ballet classes sponsored by the Caltech Dance Troupe in SAT 65 from 5:30-6:30 on October 10 and October 17. No special clothing or shoes are required for this class.

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Les-Bi-Gay-Trans Discussion Group

Attention Women Students! Caltech Society of Women Engineers and Women’s Center Presents: Information Session for Women Students, Thursday October 18th, 12:00-1:00 PM, Winnett Center Club Room Would you like to know when to turn to when you have problems with the Caltech ratio? Scholarship opportunities only for women? Free food opportunities for women? Women alumni network opportunities for careers? Professionals from various departments will talk about their topics and programs for women. This session is designed for women students, especially fresh. FREE FOOD! For more information, contact: Emma Kang, ekang@its.caltech.edu, www.its.caltech.edu/~womeninfo/session.html

Caltech Library System Presents: The following sessions are approximately one hour of formal instruction followed by an optional hands-on practice. All classes begin at noon and meet in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multi-media Conference Room (Room 528). Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is preferred.

Tuesday, October 16: Patents, Tuesday, October 23: Web of Science for Science and Engineering View details and register for these and other upcoming classes at: http://library.caltech.edu/learning/default.htm. For further information, please contact Kathleen McGregor at x6713 or kathleen@library.caltech.edu.

The Telluride Film Festival到 Caltech on October 23, 7:30pm in Baxter Lecture Hall. Tickets are $5 for students (or $5 advanced/$10 at the door). The film line up appears below, in addition there will be base-jumping and ski films with titles to be announced. Tickets are available at the Caltech ticket office 1-888-2CALTECH or through ticketmaster.

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Get certified in Adult First Aid and CPR by the American Red Cross.

Adult First Aid and CPR classes will be held the week of October 15-19.

The classes are scheduled as follows: Monday, October 15, 9am-4pm, Wednesday, October 17, 9am-4pm, Friday, October 19, 9am-4pm, Tuesday and Thursday, October 16 and 18, 6pm-10pm (Must attend both days to be certified). If you are interested in attending one of these classes please contact the Environmental, Health, and Safety Office at extension 6672 to reserve your place. Class size is limited so reserve your seat today.

To submit a Mint, e-mail mints@tech.caltech.edu or mail your announce­ment to Caltech 40-58 Atn: Mints. Submissions should not be longer than 150 words. Email is preferred. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Deadline is noon Wednesday. Unless specified, all mints run for two weeks.