Moore money given to research

Gordon and Betty Moore are the recent beneficiaries of Caltech. Their $600 million donation is the largest gift given to any university.

OCTOBER 26, 2001. Gordon Moore is not only a Caltech alumnus (Chemistry doctorate, 1954) and Chairmen Emeritus of the Board of Trustees (chairing it from 1993-2000) but he was also the co-founder and making Intel Corporation.

With such a great endowment on Tech, everyone is curious as to where the money will be going and who will get how much of it.

Hence, there was no better choice than the President himself, to speak with on the issue. He started off by saying, “We have no money...as of today!” Then he explained the contents of the gift package. They are split into two parts namely $300 million from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and $300 million from stock in their names. The former is strictly directed towards research, development, and education whereas the latter is to be donated over the next five years and is unrestricted in its usage.

Clearly, he confirmed, that a lot of this too would go into endowment and research.

Upon my asking about how the funds would influence students, President Baltimore said, “We are yet to discuss with the foundation about exactly what areas they will consider for funding that is related to students.”

However, he said that they would do so in the next few weeks.

The two major projects dealing with student life and amidst consideration as of now are the Student Houses’ renovation and the building of a student union that will include a performance hall, activities rooms for music and art and so on. He said that these were both high on the priorities list and were also very intense projects with respect to finance.

Hence, the gifts would certainly help in their funding. He added that he certainly hoped to see results in this area within the next 2 to 3 years.

He commented further, “The Moore gifts should not be seen in isolation. We have plans for a comprehensive campaign that will be announced next year and will incorporate student-related needs.”

As soon as I got a chance, I mentioned some of the major problems that face a majority of the undergraduate student body such as the food quality and academic concerns like CS classes. He promptly replied to both.

His comment on the food was, “I believe that a greater part of the complaints about food are to do with the way it is served and a part of the new renovation plan is significant reorganization of food service. I believe that will help a lot. In fact, I will personally look to committees that involve students, for advice on that.”

Regarding the computer science department, he said, “One of the clear lacks we have is an insufficient faculty size for the interest there is in CS and we definitely want to give some consideration to it.”

President Baltimore addressed the general Caltech community this Monday regarding the details surrounding the extraordinary gifts. He expressed his personal concern for the betterment of student life at Caltech and said, “We want to understand the needs of the students and see where we can respond to those.”

Ell awarded 2001 Caltech Women at Work Medal of Excellence

While Caltech is primarily known for its excellence in the fields of science and technology, the impact of dedicated individuals outside the scientific arena cannot be underestimated. In appreciation for her commitment, leadership, and service to Caltech, Sandra Ell, Caltech’s Chief Investment Officer, was awarded the 2001 Caltech Women at Work Medal of Excellence.

Joining Caltech as an accountant for JPL in 1984, Ell’s career accomplishments have been nothing short of spectacular. In 1990, Ell became the school’s assistant treasurer and is now Caltech’s treasurer and CIO. In addition to managing Caltech’s foundation, endowment, and trust funds—a sum totaling $2.3 billion—Ell is also an active member in the Pasadena community. She serves as an advisor for the mayor of Pasadena and is also the commissioner for Pasadena City’s Utility Advisory Commission.

It is for her career accomplishments and devotion to the community that Ell received the Women at Work Medal of Excellence. The award, sponsored yearly by Caltech and presented by the nonprofit organization Women at Work, was first awarded in 1984. It now seeks to honor women who have impacted the workplace and community by serving as an inspiration for other women in the arena of career development.

It was in celebration of this spirit that a ceremony was held on October 10, 2001, at Caltech recognizing Mrs. Ell’s seventeen years of commitment and impressive accomplishments.

Ell, surprised at being awarded the Women at Work Medal of Excellence, exclaimed, “I am absolutely thrilled! It is a real honor to be so recognized by an institution that prides itself on its excellence, and always raises the bar in its academic, scientific, and administrative activities!”

The Usual

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Letter to the Editors:

As a research institution, Caltech's priorities are apparent, and they often do not include students. We need only recall our net-zero gain from the $60 million Axeline grant, our almost nonexistent performing arts program, our dilapidated houses, archaic registration system, and faculty who are often teaching-averse.

When the IHC met with Chris Brennan last term, we discussed how funding from student affiars could help develop a stronger UCC system in the houses and increase our quality of life. Their budget was slashed this year. When I needed advice from the fellowships and study abroad program, part-time coordinator Lauren Stolper was not here. Her secretary said "[Lauren] is the only one who can help you." The deadline is today. When I went to the ceramics class (at Polytechnic), the instructor begged us to petition the institute for more resources. Chandler facilities are inadequate. Chandler is over capacity. Enriching music and art classes are largely ignored. Our quality of life silently suffers.

With more funding for student affairs, we can afford to fund student endeavours and enhance our nonacademic programs. Quality of life can increase. We can afford to hire faculty who are often teaching-averse. More funding for student affairs would allow the disbursement of the institute's newfound wealth -- President Baltimore, Steve Koonin, Chris Brennan, Bill Jenkins, Miriam Feldblum, and the deans -- to let them know that funding for student affairs is imperative to the success of the institute. If we dare call ourselves a 21st century institution, then this administration must see a precedent of concern for its students.

Respectfully,
Daniel J. Liebling
President, Lloyd House

The California Tech

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Donut snafu racks ASCIT Board of Directors

BY KEVIN BARTZ

They’re suckled in syrup, cuddled in cream, deliciously dainty, and sweetly sinfully back proposals have sparked hot debate on the future of the long-time favorite of Caltech’s campus in the far-flung suburbs—and students only needed to use their UID cards as a source of money. However, as of now, clubs cannot charge directly to student UID accounts. For the clubs, charging to the UID means it will be less work for them. Any groups formally associated with Caltech can charge amounts to UID, such as ASCIT and the houses. However, for the Bursar’s office, which keeps track of these transactions, it would be a nightmare if the clubs were able to charge to the UIDs.

Pat Draper, Personal Account Supervisor, said that before the change came along, the clubs could get the money because there was a general pool of money that they could access. Once the clubs got their money from the general pool, the same amount could be deducted from the student’s account.

Now, with a different account process and new software, this cannot be done. Every transaction has to be monitored, and that means every club needs a code. That is a lot of work for the Bursar’s office to do.

Heidi Dillon, the Bursar, said that they already have a list of all groups that have a code and adding all the codes for each club will be too much work.

The Bursar’s office did make one exception: last year’s ASCIT Formal. It was done because they are affiliated with ASCIT. However, no more exceptions for any clubs will be made.

They will continue the policy of not allowing clubs to charge to student accounts. “If it is to be changed, Finances and Student Affairs need to formally make a written policy,” Dillon says.

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Reasons to talk to PIMCO: $221 Billion

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3:30 - 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 5, 2001
Center for Student Services, 3rd Floor Conference Room

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The strawberry donut from the Donut Man is such an integrated part of Caltech's culture, that it is part of ASCIT's official website: donut.caltech.edu.

Still, ASCIT ringleaders were quick to pin such outcry to localized sources. “I don’t think students who say they want Far Foster’s but don’t ever come should voice their opinion too much,” said Fassler. To this end, the Board of Directors has prepared a campus-wide survey to assess independently students’ demands. “It’s something that should be up to the students to decide, and the survey we’re about to put out will give us a good impression from the students,” offered Upperclassmen Director-at-Large Todd Schuman. Currently, Stapleton has tagged Winchell’s as a “very unprobabilistic” permanent source and will consider as a first alternative contracting commercial delivery from Donut Man, where a company representative expressed cautious optimism for delivery possibilities: “we often work out delivery deals with schools,” she said.

Next on the docket are several pastry providers purported to be similarly “really tasty,” namely Mr. Good’s Donut House on nearby Colorado Street or Krispy Kreme in Glendora, where the Caltech Cheerleaders’ Club has earned a substantial portion of its profit. The financial allure is obvious: Mr. Good’s delivers for a flat fee of only $25 and charges only $6 per dozen for strawberry-filled donuts, compared to $2.10 per donut from Donut Man. As it stands, ASCIT pays $4300 for dozens each term, excluding personal gas and transportation costs to drivers. One more speculative proposal would involve trading Friday morning donuts for an additional coveted “midnight donut” session each term, where crowds of undergraduates feed off several thousand evening donuts trucked in by an industrial-strength eighteen-wheeler. McHugh himself voiced support for such a plan, and Treasurer Ayeh Bandeh-Ahmedi added that ASCIT officials would never “think of getting rid of midnight donuts.” Long ago, Sadhal too remembered the virtual mob scene.

But any move at all would cause a chaos in a patisserie tradition already over a decade old. Donut Man officials remember supplying Caltech for nearly the past ten years, and students, young and old, are slow to trade in a classic taste simply for added pastry pocket change. “Just because I haven’t eaten many of the ASCIT donuts doesn’t mean I haven’t eaten donuts,” said Prosh William Young, who procured the potential change. “I’ve had plenty of donuts and I know very well the difference.”
Marcus in Macedonia

The latest TV show to come to Macedonia, and now the latest rage, is The Jerry Springer Show. Thank you, great giving America, for sending the one thing this country, addled by violent ethnic tension, really needs.

One friend described to me the episode he saw. “There was a girl, and no matter what her mother said, she was determined to be a prostitute. Ooh. It made me so angry! Then, at the end, Jerry had some good final thoughts.” Thank you, America.

Bicycling around town I’m now offended by billboards with “The Jerry Springer Show” and Jerry’s grinning face plastered above some Cyrillic explanation. Damn you, America’s trash merchants. Won’t you leave Macedonia alone?

The singular good I can see coming from the Jerry Springer invasion is that he may alter the unpleasant American Dream idea that too many here have swallowed. Many of my friends tell me of their burning desire to move to America, where money and jobs are plenty, to revel in the happiness they see expressed in the sitcoms and movies that come through Macedonia.

There is some truth to the dream because the opportunities available to Americans are far greater than those available in Macedonia, but mostly this American Dream is a poorly-formed media dream. It bears reinforcing that it is possible to be unhappy anywhere, even in America.

Some people here, pre-Jerry Springer, have held a refreshingly opposite view, although I find this equally ill-informed and extreme. They claim that Albanian “terrorists” in the lingo of Macedonia. But I know the Macedonians, and I hear the way they talk about how the rightful Macedonians have been chopped up and distributed to Albania, Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia, and I have little doubt that with the power of the United States they too would become a world presence.

Yet another group of my friends say they would never move to America because people there are too greedy and materialistic. Whether or not these people have a point, their view really can’t be helped because they’re anti-capitalist anarchists.

But the fundamental problem is that all these people don’t know what they’re talking about. Everybody is working from TV shows, Hollywood movies and news reports, which is a small step above working from ignorance. America is a complex society with lots of different ways to live, and so maybe Jerry Springer can be useful.

Perhaps he will expose my comrades to a certain lesser-known side of American society. Still I shudder to think that one day my friends, in their deep rolling Macedonian accents, may be chanting, “Jerry! Jerry! Jerry!”

Are you afraid of the dark? Most of us were as kids, and being unable to avoid it, we somehow came to live with darkness, albeit somewhat uncomfortably. Most of us grow out of it by the time we graduate from elementary school, but in a while we all experience that familiar dread returns as we’re walking back from Ralph’s at 3am or as we enter our darkened apartments after a long night. Fear of the dark is primitive and deep-rooted, and although darkness occupies at least half of our lives, that childhood fear never disappears entirely, but just gets repressed by adult rationality and compusre. In the United States we have virtually banished darkness from our cities entirely. But despite streetlights and nighttime, we are still afraid—for what is dark is unknown, and what is unknown is uncontrollable and therefore frightening to modern urbanites.

At nighttime, ordinary activities like walking down the street can now be full of potential dangers. Any pedestrian is a likely target, their view really can’t be helped because they’re anti-capitalist anarchists.

No one will ever go out at night. Any pedestrian is a likely target, their view really can’t be helped because they’re anti-capitalist anarchists.

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Features

There’s more a Techer can do than science and technology

by Ming Hui

“The past summer really changed my career plan,” said Junior Joy Qiu. “Before the summer, I didn’t think that I would ever end up in Wall Street, now I am seriously considering it as my plan after graduation.”

Joy chose to spend an atypical Caltech-style summer in New York City, where she was an intern at the Client Services Technology Group at Salomon Smith Barney (now Corporate and Investment Bank of Citigroup). She typically spent eight hours a day, using company-developed software to conduct project tracking and some other daily tasks relating to the company’s operations. In specific, she was involved with the company’s expense management in which she kept track of spending of each corporate division and conducted saving and expense analysis. Prior to last summer, Joy spent her fresh summer programming at Caltech. Though she enjoyed working with her friends on campus, she appreciated last summer’s change of setting, where she had unusual exposure to industries and enjoyed initiating projects and learning new programs at the same time.

Like every Caltech sophomore, at the start, Joy had no previous experience working at a financial institution. She added, “I knew there was Wall Street and NASDAQ (associated with stock market and such), but nothing much about how it really works or what it does in detail.”

On the other hand, she admitted that she always had an interest in business and wondered what it was. It was this interest that urged her to apply to the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity Career Program (SEO), a New York based organization that provides undergraduate students of color with breakthrough internship opportunities in asset management, investment banking, management consulting, corporate law and many other most competitive industries in the economy. In recent years, SEO has expanded its internship programs to industries such as IT, media, and philanthropy. According to Joy, an SEO internship is different from many regular internships in that an SEO intern is exposed to the industry as a whole instead of the very firm where the work is located. They represent the highs of the summer to be the various SEO seminars, where interns had opportunities to talk to CEOs from Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch and JP Morgan. For many college undergrads, an SEO internship at a prestigious bank or consulting firm, with various summer seminars, was an excellent Wall Street 101, and many of them even had their lives changed ever since.

Joy and her exciting story, along with the fact that the SEO interview represented the recent rise of Caltech students’ interests in business and financial fields. Some new clubs such as Caltech Consulting Club have formed. Some existing clubs have gone through significant restructuring and have launched various initiatives. According to Amir Kenjale (1st yr Grad EE & class of 2001), the President of Entrepreneur Club, “The ECub is stepping up its level of involvement and the intensity as well as the quality of its programs this year. We’re going beyond ‘plain-old-speaker-events’ to do some business and startup related activities where students can have hands-on experience.”

One of the ECub’s major initiatives this year is the mentorship program in which any Caltech graduate or undergraduate with business motivations can match up with a knowledgeable businessperson who has been in the fields for years. In addition to the mentorship program, the ECub has various other activities underway, which include: participating in a $100,000 business plan competition, hosting multiple networking events with both industries as well as with USC/UCLA/ArtCenter, and originating a ‘startup-internship’ program for students to get some experience working in technology related startups. Kenjale reasoned that the extensive network the ECub built through years would add to the success of these programs; however, he welcomed more inputs and participation from the campus, particularly from graduate students and fresh (email: eclub@caltech.edu).

On the other hand, many recruiters acknowledged that “it is the ability to think logically and analytically and to communicate effectively that will make a success at work” (Bain & Co. recruiting). The solid analytical and quantitative skills possessed by Caltech students have attracted much attention from the recruiters these days. For example, despite the discouraging downturn at their presentation last year on Caltech campus, SEO will have a campus presentation again this year on Wednesday Nov. 7, 2001.

Joy was the only one who showed up at the SEO presentation last year. She expected to see a larger turnout next week, as she said, “I sure hope that I will not be the only one this year!”

Are you shy?

Shyness is a commonly experienced problem with an estimated of 40-50% of Americans describing themselves as shy. While many people describe themselves as shy their experience of being shy can vary quite a bit. Some people are shy when in particular social situations such as when talking with someone they might be interested in romantically, dealing with authority figures or speaking in public. Some people are shy with groups of people but not at all shy with close friends. Still others suffer from severe anxiety when confronted with any kind of social interaction, social phobia.

Shyness has come to describe a variety of experiences not all of which are actually about shyness. An introvert may appear shy but in the classic definition of the term they aren’t shy. The difference is that shy people have a desire for contact with the outside world of people but limit their interaction because of the anxiety they feel in social situations. An introvert doesn’t feel the same anxiety about dealing with people they just enjoy the internal world of thoughts and ideas that often involves more solitary activities.

Other people shy away from people when they are depressed, not having the emotional energy to engage with others. Shyness is also culture bound. Some cultures place a strong value on what would be described as being very social while other cultures place value on respecting others in a way that can look like shyness when it is more similar to deference. Differences in cultural norms regarding body language, smiling, and volume of talking all influence how people relate and define shyness within their culture.

Shyness is meant to describe people who wish to have more interactions with people than they do but feel inhibited or uncomfortable in doing so. A shy person’s anxiety about social situations often is the result of excessive self-focus and worry. Shy people tend to think about how they are going to perform in a social situation and evaluate themselves negatively (e.g. I won’t know what to say, I’ll say the wrong thing, people won’t be interested in what I have to say). The experience of relating becomes more about the “performance” for the shy person than actually relating to another person. People who might be described as outgoing aren’t inhibited by thoughts of failing in a social situation. They focus more on the other person or their own more positive feelings about an interaction than the negative self-appraisals of a shy person.

How can you overcome your shyness?

Anxiety is one of the major components of shyness and has to be addressed in order to overcome shyness. As explained, shy people often think in terms of negative performance in social situations and that leads to their feeling badly about themselves and anxious about social situations. They avoid social situations to avoid the anxiety and self-reproach they feel. Professional help for shyness usually involves helping the person reframe the way they think of social interactions and focus less on themselves and more on the other person(s). People who suffer from speech anxiety or social phobia can experience anxiety that sometimes reaches the level of panic. Medications can be useful to them to help manage the physical symptoms of anxiety in situations when they are likely to feel anxious or taken prophylactically. Medication is meant to manage the anxiety so the person is freed up to actually give their speech or engage in social situations rather than being so focused on the anxiety they feel. The work for those suffering from social phobia and speech anxiety also involves shifting their focus to what they want to say and away from how they will be judged. Because people vary in how they experience shyness and the accompanying anxiety, help regarding shyness has to be tailored to the individual.

If you think of yourself as shy and would like some help you can check out the Counseling Center’s web page http://www.counseling.caltech.edu for more information. You can also talk with one of the Counseling Center staff for more individualized help. xl8331.
IHC Announcement

To All ASCIT Members,

The position of Interhouse Committee Chairman has been recently vacated and as such it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to select a replacement, in accordance with Article VIII, Section 9 of our bylaws. There will be a signup sheet posted outside SAC 33 starting Friday morning at 8 AM and lasting until Monday at midnight. All ASCIT members interested in being interviewed by the Executive Committee to fill the office of IHC Chairman are encouraged to sign-up. For more information about the Executive Committee please see our website at http://donut.caltech.edu/~excomm or e-mail the Chairman at aj@its.caltech.edu. To learn more about the position of IHC Chairman and the committee itself, see their website at http://www.uucs.caltech.edu/~ihc.

Al Valdivia
Executive Committee Chairman

The notebook of Trigorin

Theater Arts at Caltech (TACT) presents one of Tennessee Williams’s final plays, The Notebook of Trigorin, a free adaptation of Chekhov’s The Sea Gull. Featured in the cast are junior Dana Tocesan as Nina, sophomore Suzana Sburlan as Masha, and senior Michael Shulman as Medvedenko.

Performances are in Dabney Gardens & Dabney Lounge, weekend afternoons at 3 p.m., on Saturday, Nov. 3, 10, 17, and Sunday, Nov. 4, 11, 18. Tickets for Caltech students are only $5, available at the Caltech Ticket Office (x4652).

Midterms have you hitting the Malox?

Try Knox.

Knox Presbyterian Church offers a peaceful hour of worship and reflection. Immediately following the service we enjoy Fellowship (coffee, tea and thee!) on the patio. If you like to sing, our Choir welcomes all singers and has soloist spots available. We look forward to seeing you!

Worship 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship 11:00 a.m.
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Pasadena, California 91106-3402
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E-Mail connect@knoxpasadena.org
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Jane Newstead, Minister

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Opportunities at research journal

The Journal of Young Investigators (JYI), Inc. is an international, entirely student-run, non-profit corporation that provides undergraduate students with opportunities to actively participate in the scientific review and publication processes and in science journalism. These opportunities are provided through the operation of JYI’s science journal for undergraduates, which is also called JYI, and these educational opportunities are enhanced through mentoring relationships with professionals in the scientific community.

The journal is split into a research articles section and a feature articles section. The research articles section comprises manuscripts on original research conducted by undergraduates and technical review articles. The feature articles section comprises a wide variety of journalistic and non-technical articles written primarily by science journalists on staff. JYI is an entirely undergraduate-run enterprise. Currently, we are proud to boast an excellent staff of over 50 undergraduate students from a wide variety of academic institutions.

If you are interested in being a part of JYI, there are currently two important positions we are trying to fill.

1) Managing Editor - must be an UNDERGRADUATE in university/college

Basically, the position requires someone with superior organizational, management, and people skills. The Managing Editor manages staff (hiring & firing, interacting with staff, keeping up staff morale, coordinating staff projects), plans and organizes the Annual Editorial Conference, is the “effective” secretary of the Board of Directors, and helps the Director of Recruitment and Public Relations with recruitment of staff and manuscripts.

2) Chief Financial Officer - must be an UNDERGRADUATE in university/college

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is responsible for researching and contacting potential funding sources and is the main financial contact for JYI. He/she, the DPR, and members of a selected committee from the editorial staff work to ensure financial security by promoting and advertising JYI to both private and public organizations to obtain support. Through acting as manager of the company bank account, the CFO also takes care of all reimbursements. In addition, the CFO is responsible for all legal matters affecting JYI.

3) Webmaster - open to high school students and undergraduates in university/college

This person is responsible for keeping up the JYI website. Uploading new articles, making the site user-friendly.

If you are interested in any of these positions, you need to submit a cover letter and resume. For the position of Managing Editor and CFO, I also would like 2 letters of recommendation and 1 letter of support from the Dean. Email your application to choi@jyi.org Please visit http://www.jyi.org/aboutJyi/helpWanted.html for details about the application content.

We are always looking for article submissions to be published in the Journal. So, if you have done some interesting research, and would like to get published, please feel free to contact me at any time. I would love to give you more information and help you get an article published in JYI.

-- Anita Choi
(UBC 99)
www.jyi.org

What’s new at the Y?

- Noon concert today outside of the Red Door Café. The group Speechwriters LLC will be performing an acoustic mix.

- The Yankutitl Aztec Dance Group will perform next Friday at noon outside of the Red Door Café.

- Day Hike to Rubio Canyon on Saturday, November 10. All are invited to come on this 1.5 mile hike. Transportation will be provided on a space-available basis.

Contact Justin Kao (kaoj@caltech.edu) for more information.

- Reading to Kids, Saturday, November 10 at 8:00 am. Make a difference by reading to children at an inner city elementary school. Contact Anita Choi (anchoi@caltech.edu) for more information. Advance registration is required by the school.

- The Community Service Planning Committee meets every Thursday at noon in the Y Lounge. If you are interested, please stop by or contact Niki Zacharias (niki@caltech.edu)

Did you know?

The Y rents camping equipment at a reasonable cost. Equipment includes backpacks, tents, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, bear canisters, stoves, and water filters. Stop by the Y or call X6163 for prices and availability.

The Y ExComm meets every Monday at noon in the Y Lounge to plan upcoming Y events. If you are interested in what we do, please stop by! The Y is located on the first floor the Student Services Building, south of the Holliston parking structure.
Minutes

ASCIT Minutes

OCTOBER 29, 2001

Present: BoD, Guests: Zack Chadick and Matt Ashman, on behalf of the Donubey Halloween pumpkin drop; Kevin Bartz, from the Tech.

Meeting brought to order at 5:06 pm.

Guests:

Zack and Matt came to ask for Multihouse funding for the Annual Pumpkin drop, which has always drawn crowds from the seven houses and even the police.

Last year’s event was met with some complaints from neighbors of the Caltech community because speakers were playing music from the top of Millikan. This year’s event should not disturb as many outsiders, and will be equally if not moreo entertaining. Donubey is approved for their Multihouse funding.

General Meeting:

IHC Chair vacancy. At the meeting, the BoD received notice that Dana was resigning. The BoD extends its gratitude to Dana for her work as IHC Chair-person and wishes her the best. Her resignation leaves a vacuum on the BoD, and according to the By-Laws we will need to open the floor for new IHC candidates, to serve until the start of the new administration. The interim IHC Chair-person will not have a vote on the board and will be selected upon approval by the Executive Committee (ExComm). Tech offers to sign-up as a candidate, given his experience with IHC in the past, but in doing so, he will have to resign as UDAL. Since Todd’s UDAL replacement won’t have a vote, Tech adds that this is a rare opportunity for everyone to play musical BoD and swap roles until no one has a vote on ASCIT.

Patching. A new parking survey has been placed around campus. We are in the process of gathering data about undergraduates needs for parking spaces. In light of the changes that will take into effect next academic year, ASCIT strongly urges undergrads to take a few minutes and complete the survey, as student opinion will be represented on a new committee formed by Vice President of Business and Finances Al Horvath to address the parking issue. Joe Fassler received a response to the letter he sent to several administrators, and an undergraduate student allowed to serve on this committee. Joe would like to serve as the representative, but he will be leaving for Cambridge for second term, and thus cannot serve on the year-round committee. Accordingly, Joe proposes to appoint Tim Crosby.

Paging. Roughly 4300 vehicles have been registered, including 777 graduate students and 334 undergraduates. Of the undergraduate spaces, only 35 belong to freshmen, so if next year’s incoming class cars ownership pattern shows any resemblance to this year’s, the new parking policy of prohibiting freshmen to park on campus will be saving less than 1% of the parking spaces on campus.

Donuts. ASCIT will be writing a thank-you letter to Dr. Moore and his wife for their generosity to this institution. Their largesse is greatly appreciated and ASCIT hopes that some of the funds can be directed to undergraduate-related affairs, such as the construction of the new student center and building of the houses. Martha-Helene adds that some of the facilities, the condensed matter physics Sloan-Annex building, especially, are very under-funded and deserve an upgrade.

How ASCIT can serve you. In light of the done complaints, ASCIT will be polling students soon on how they would like ASCIT to spend on students. We are in the process of developing a poll that will be accessible through http://donut.caltech.edu where students can express their feelings on how ASCIT can apportion its funding across donuts, clubs, movies and DVDs, etc.

Attendance – Nick Knoup (Ch), Al Valdivia (Sec), Tim Crosby (Bl), Jonathan Lee (Da), Iram P. Bilal (Pa), Ves Sok (Ru), Clinton Conley (L1), Larry Stewart (Rep-At-Large), Justin Ho (Rep-At-Large)

Ch 3a – Justin has done a good job following up our concerns for switching Ch 3a from two 3 hour blocks to an all day session. He has written up the reasons in an article in last week’s Tech for all undergrads to read. There is a consensus among the ARC that the reasons have helped to alleviate our concerns.

Programming Class - Nick and Chris Elion have been working on a proposal for a new programming course to supplement the existing curriculum. They show us a rough draft of their progress and relay some of the feedback they have gotten from the faculty.

Ad-Hoc Library Committee – There is now an undergraduate member of the Ad-Hoc Library Committee which is looking to alter the existing library system.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Evidently, Stressed.

Talk to PIMCO. It’s all here.

Come see us on campus
3:30 - 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 5, 2001
Center for Student Services, 3rd Floor Conference Room

PIMCO
The Internet brings its users the world online. Astronomers at 17 research institutions have announced that they’re starting an ambitious new project to put the universe online.

The National Virtual Observatory (NVO), headed by astronomer Alex Szalay of The Johns Hopkins University and computer scientist Paul Messina of the California Institute of Technology, will unite astronomical databases of many earthbound and orbital observatories, taking advantage of the latest computer technology and data storage and analysis techniques. The goal is to maximize the potential for new scientific insights from the data by making them available in an accessible, seamlessly unified form to professional researchers, amateur astronomers and students.

The new project is funded by a five-year, $10 million Information Technology Research grant from the National Science Foundation. Organizers characterize the new effort as “the next generation of the Virtual Observatory.”

Szalay, the Alumni Centennial Professor of Astronomy in Johns Hopkins’ Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, views the NVO (http://nvo.vo) as a significant step forward in formalizing a third major approach to scientific research that’s been growing in usefulness and popularity in recent years.

$10 million NSF grant to fund ‘National Virtual Observatory’

First, you have science conducted through theoretical models,” he explains. “Next, you have science tested through experiments. The new approach, scientific exploration through computational methods, is developing in response to the tremendous volumes of data we’re starting to gather in many of the sciences.”

According to Szalay, advances in technology and technique now annually double the total information astronomers gather each year from observatories.

“If we do not develop ways to distill information and insights from these floods of data, we will end up like shipwrecked sailors on a desert island, sur­rounded by an ocean of salt wa­ter and unable to slake our thirst,” co-principal investigator Messina says.

Messina notes that the NVO project is funded by the Digital Sky Project (http://www.npaci.edu/envis/153/digitalsky.html), an NSF-funded project led by Caltech computer scientist Tom Davis, which is working to make data from four different astronomy databases available through one seamless web portal.

The NVO will take some of its basic techniques from an earlier multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional NSF-funded project led by Szalay. That project, started two years ago, worked to de-

The universities participating in the project are University of Florida, University of Chicago, California Institute of Technology, University of California at San Diego, Indiana University, Boston University, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Pennsylvania State University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Northwestern University, University of Southern California, University of Texas at Brownsville, Ham­pton University, Salisbury Kootenai College.

National laboratories participating include Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory, and Stanford Linear Accelerator Laboratory.

Please see observatories on page 9
Szalay compares the effects of this technique for users to the electronic power grids set up for large regions of the United States. Power grids gather and use resources from a variety of sources, but without the user ever being aware such gathering processes are occurring. "We'll rely on the same kinds of techniques to transfer data and run computer programs in a transparent way," Szalay says. "You won't necessarily know where your computer program is running or be aware that data's being accessed in one database or another - just that the work is getting done." Ethan Schreier, an astronomer at the Space Telescope Science Institute who is a member of the NVO project Executive Committee, says astronomy has been at the forefront of archiving and sharing data electronically for at least two decades. "Astronomers first started developing standard data exchange in the late 1970s, were aggressive in developing standard data analysis systems that other astronomers could share, and then built data archives for use by the broad scientific community," says Schreier, who is an adjunct professor at Hopkins. These archives, Schreier notes, have so much data in them that they can be used to produce new discoveries many years after the data were originally gathered. Messina emphasizes that the focus for the NVO won't be to impose a particular set of database standards but to encourage their continued creation, with the expectation that competition among standards will encourage further development of standards that large segments of the astronomical community agree on. He notes that they already have an encouraging indicator of the NVO's potential for expanding consensus: all the major archives of astronomy data in the United States are already signed up to participate in the NVO, and links are being created to similar initiatives in Europe and Asia. "This project will reach across the astronomical community," Szalay says. "The number of people interested has been growing exponentially, and I think this is likely to change astronomy as we know it." Organizers are planning to keep the NVO "virtual" - not located in any one facility - and accessible enough for non-specialists like science teachers or students to use. "A major goal for the NVO is to provide a window on the universe for students, teachers, backyard astronomers and the interested public," says Bob Hanisch, NVO project manager at the Space Telescope Science Institute. "The NVO will enable the public to explore directly the wealth of information from society's investment in our national research facilities."
MY HOME PHONE TURNS INTO A TALKING CLOCK AT MIDNIGHT.

THEM I NOTICED THAT THE CIRCUIT DESIGN LOOKED LIKE A BUG. I WAS GOING TO MENTION IT BUT THEN I DIDN'T.

I'M PSYCHIC!

UNLESS YOU'RE SAYING OUT LOUD EVERY THOUGHT THAT CROSS YOUR MIND, IT'S CALLED CONVERSATION.

FROM WHAT IS HE RECOVERING? IS IT A COLD OR PERHAPS A FLU?

HE SAW SO MUCH EVIL THAT HIS SOUL DISMISSED AND HE BECAME A LEGENDARY DEMON.

SHOULDN'T WE BE MATCHING THESE WITH OUR OPENINGS?

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING.

SO... DO YOU HAVE PSYCHIC POWERS?

MY EYES ARE UP HERE, PAL.

IF WE ELIMINATE VACATION DAYS AND INCREASE SICK DAYS...

WOULD THE EMPLOYEES FALL FOR OUR TRAP AND MAKE THEMSELVES SICK TO GET DAYS OFF?

YOU'RE IN H.R. NOW. IT'S OKAY TO BE EVIL.

IT'S 3:45 IN THE MORNING YOU #20 IDIOT!

I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I'M DRINKING UP.

I'M GOING TO BE GLOWING THE GUY, KNOWN TO THE ELEVEN AS WANDERWIZOW, WEST OF THE STAG AND ROOTS OF WORDS, THE 365TH DAY OF THE YEAR.

I WAS GETTING NERVOUS. THIS WAS THE GIVING UP TO MAKE A DECISION. YOU'RE RIGHT. HALLOWEEN'S COMING UP TO MAKE A DECISION.

HALLOWEEN... IS IT THE END OF THE WORLD?

ARE YOU GETTING ENOUGH AIR THROUGH THAT BEARD OF YOURS, GANDALF?

RUNNING OUT OF AIR?

WOOF. WOOF.

OPEN 7 DAYS Tel: 449-8018

I'M GOING TO BE GANDALF THE GREY, KNOWN TO THE ELVES AS MITHRANDIR, WISEST OF THE ISTARI AND KEEPER OF NARYA, THE RED RING OF FIRE.

WOOF. WOOF.

OH?

FINALLY FIGURED OUT WHAT I'M DRESSING UP AS.
Dean’s Corner

The Boats

by Jean-Paul Revel

which, one can hypothesize, reveal something about the personalities in the contest groups. Some of the boats are plain and straightforward in construction, presumably conceived by plain, straightforward, soulful engineers. There are what I’ll call the Rococo boats, with odd flourishes, pleasing and surprising touches that are not necessarily particularly functional. Some have plus quartiers for their toy cargo, some have nearly non-functional but truly amazing propulsion systems, ranging from “jetison” to elaborate screws made of niftily folded playing cards. And then each year there are also boats which try to “cut corners.” A favorite trick is to equip the boats with a long boom. At first the boom is more or less straight up, like a mast (but for lack of an appropriate keel this makes the boat prone to rolling over). The idea is that eventually the boom falls (or is made to fall) forward, touching the opposite shore far ahead of the hull, and so artificially increasing the “speed” of the crossing. An ingenious ploy, but I have never seen it actually work appropriately—keel this makes the boat prone to rolling over. There is a lesson there I think, about the self-defeating impact of cutting corners.

There are other lessons to be learned of course. In a superficial way, it can be argued that the contest serves as a good introduction to one of the special things at Caltech, and this is cooperation between students. Ability to work with others is as important for success at Tech as it is in the boat yard. Especially demanding at Tech is the amount and difficulty of the homework the students are expected to do. Actually the only way to make it workable is to collaborate with classmates, a good preparation it is said for real life and real jobs, where many will be asked to contribute to team effort rather than going solo.

Of course this presents problems. For a student to collaborate with others in this way and yet hang in work which represents his or her own effort, rather than a copy of the consensus results arrived at by the group, requires one to be alert. Being used to collaboration can make life even more difficult at exam time, when obviously the policy is “no collaboration.” It is one of those things, which make the Honor Code such an ever-continuous presence. Every day it is necessary to think about one’s actions, to reflect on the boundary between sufficient collaboration to make the load bearable, and the necessary aloofness to make the work one’s very own, lest we take advantage of our classmates.

On this last day of midterm week I hope you all did well, and that you, frost, are beginning to get the hang of things. I also hope that as you read this Halloween will have been for you the treat that I sure you wished for, rather than the dirty tricks terrorists, or more likely your housemates, might have tried to inflict.

For treaties of course it would be hard to match Betty and Gordon Moore, Ph.D. ’74, the former Chairman of Intel and of the Board of Trustee, Commencement Speaker Emeritus, insightful propounder of “natural” laws, as well as Patrons of the Volute, you know the stone poem between Noyes and Beckman Behavioral. That a munificent treat for the Institute! $6*10^7! Only one word will do: Wow!!!

A bientot

Jean-Paul Revel
Dean of Students

Along with Dean Barbara Green, and Jason Hickey ’85, Professor of Computer Science, I just had lunch with a great bunch of students, the winners of the ME contest at Orientation Camp in Idlewild this year. I am sure that all of you remember your own boat building experience, or at least watching the race, you seniors while still at Catalina, the juniors at Pine Summit and the sophomores and freshmen at Astrocamp. The origin of the contest is lost in the darkness of times past, (well, may be not really lost, but I don’t remember, if I ever knew).

For the last few years the contest has been run by alumnus Jason Trevor ’97, who by now has done it so often that he has become, one could say, a “professional.” Groups of students are given a grab-bag of tongue depressors, plastic bottles, rubber bands, plastic spoons, drinking straws, rubber balloons, clothes pins and other junk from which they are asked to build a boat. The vessel must be capable of transporting a handful of plastic toy soldiers, safely and faster than in anyone else’s boat, from one side of the test basin to the other.

On Catalina Island, the sea was too choppy for the flimsy catamarans with symmetrical hulls (catamarans with an outrigger seem difficult to steer straight). Another feature of the best boats is propulsion by a paddle wheel made of plastic spoons. Of course there are lots of other designs,
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 $10.00 an hour. A strong understanding of the subject matter, patience, and the ability to communicate well are the qualities needed. If you are an upperclassman and would like to be a Dean's tutor please stop by the Deans’ Office to see Sandra located in 102 Parsons-Gates.

The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club is offering two five-week class series this month: Samba and Waltz. AMERICAN SAMBA, taught by professional instructor Andre Fortin, takes place on Mondays (Dates: Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26, Dec. 3). Classes are $60/hour for $25 for all five weeks for all Caltech students; $8 (lesson) $35 (series) for others. AMERICAN WALTZ (Wed. Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5) is amateur taught and costs $1/session (free for freshmen or P.E. credit). All classes are held in Winnett Lounge from 8:00-9:00 p.m. followed by a half-hour practice session. Refreshments provided; no partner or experience is required. Additionally, on Mondays from 9:11 pm we offer a mini-ballroom dance party (first half-hour is coincident with practice session) — request or bring your own music!

Atheneum Tennis Ladder. All Atheneum 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 both men and women, but matches will be formed between players within a few ladder rungs of one another. Each year trophies will be awarded. Signups welcome at any time.

For more information, contact Jane Wider at (818) 952-0941 or Rich Dekany at (626) 395-6789 or email atheneum@caltech.edu.

Scholarships

For information on available scholarships, please visit the Financial Aid web site at http://www.finaid.caltech.edu/news.html All qualified students are encouraged to apply!

Upcoming Events

Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) Information Session. Wednesday, Nov 7, 5 pm in 3rd floor Conference Room. SEO Career Program provides talent minority undergraduate students with an opportunity to explore the career preparation necessary for the most competitive areas of economy. Come and learn about it! Also visit: http://www.seo-ny.org.

Come join the Ballroom Dance Club for a free latin, swing, and ballroom dance party! Beginners are especially welcome. Beginner's waltz class starts at 7:30 (no partner required), general dancing begins at 8:15. Plenty of refreshments! Sat. Nov. 3, Winnett Lounge.

Acclaimed clarinetist Charles Neidich will make his debut with The Pasadena Symphony in an all-Mozart program on Saturday, November 10, 8 pm, at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. Conducted by Music Director Jorge Mester, Neidich will perform Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, the composer’s only contribution to the genre. Also on the bill will be the ever-popular Symphony No. 40 and the somber and plaintive Masonic Funeral Music. This is the first of three all-Mozart concerts the orchestra will present during its 2001-2002 season. Single tickets are $10, $22, $24, $40, $52 and $64 for adults; $5 for children ages 5 to 17. Student and senior rush seats are $10 and are available with ID. The work prior to the concert. Season subscriptions are also available. The Pasadena Civic Auditorium is located at 300 E. Green Street in Pasadena. For tickets and information, please call (626) 584-8835 or visit www.pasadenasymphony.org.

Women in Science is a new group on the Caltech campus. It was started by a concerned female graduate student, and we are now looking for new members. The group will be hosting Lunch With Faculty #3 on December 4 at noon at the Carriage House. Professors Jackie Barton and Sussina Haile will share their experiences about being women in science. Lunch will be provided; however, space is limited so please RSVP by sending email to Cynthia Collins at cynthiah@its.caltech.edu. If you have any questions or comments please email us at womens@its.caltech.edu.

Self-Defense Class for Women Sponsored by the Caltech Women’s Center. Free and open to students, staff, and faculty. Saturday, November 10, 10 am - 6 pm. Steve House, Carriage House Conference Center. This eight-hour training offers participants the opportunity to learn and rehearse self-defense techniques. Participants will practice these new skills with a full padded assailant in a variety of simulated attack scenarios. The workshop will also include: assessing dangerous situations responding to being followed diplomaticlimit-setting and communication skills. This class will introduce you to skills that can help you avoid, deter, and resist physical and verbal assault. For more information or to register please call ext. 3221. Space is limited.

***Please note that Men’s Self-Defense Classes will be held in the spring***

Caltech Library System Presents. The following sessions are approximately one hour of formal instruction followed by hands-on practice. All classes begin at noon and meet in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room (Room 328). Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is preferred.

Tuesday, November 6, “Life Sciences Information Resources” POSTPONED, NEW DATE TBA

Wednesday, November 13: “Introduction to Endnote 4.0”

View details and register for these and other upcoming classes at: http://library.caltech.edu/learners/

For More Information, please contact Kathleen McGregor at x6713 or kathleen@library.caltech.edu.

November 2, 2001

The California Tech

12 Mints

The California Tech

140-58

Pasadena, CA 91126

To submit a Mint, e-mail mint@stoch.caltech.edu or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submissions should be no longer than 150 words. Email is preferred. The editors reserve the right to edit and abbreviate all material. Deadline is noon Wednesday. Unless specified, all mints will run for two weeks.