RICKETS STILLS STRUGGLES TO KEEP FIREPOT

More has come on the line as a result of the ban of the Ricketts’ House firepot. Not only is a major house tradition in danger, but the student faith in the administration has also been questioned due to its recent actions.

While the Caltech administration cited safety concerns as a justification for the firepot ban, student accounts of the Oct. 7 firepot incident have conflicted with security reports. Student witness claims that the fire reached a height of roughly two feet as opposed to the ten foot flame described in the security report.

In order to establish the facts, a meeting was arranged last Monday with the Chris Brennen, the Vice President of Student Affairs. Ricketts House representatives, including Ricketts President Rick Kamesky and other house members, presented letters from the Blacker President Tory Sturgeon and Fleming President Sean McHugh, stating that the pot has been used responsibly. A pledge signed by Ricketts House as a whole was also presented arguing that the firepot has been and will be used properly.

The administration, however, fears that the safety of the student body is at risk.

Adding to the complexity of the situation, an agreement was reached four years ago after a fire-related accident badly injured a student. Ricketts House kept its firepot as a “barbecue” station with a grill that would operate with flames limited to a maximum of two to three feet.

A change in the social atmosphere of Ricketts House is already noticeable, only one week after the Ricketts flame was extinguished. According to Kamesky, “There has been less [social] interaction in the house as a result of the moratorium.”

House members have also begun to view agreements made by the administration with students and faculty through more cynical eyes.

At the present time, there have been no advances in resolving the issues involving the Ricketts firepot.

The safety concerns of the administration are now being respected in the Ricketts courtyard even though a long standing tradition.

In its 17th year, ME 72 challenges students to use their knowledge for a creative purpose. The importance of this is that these future engineers will need to use their creativity and improvisation, as well as knowledge, to achieve their desired goals in their work. The contest guidelines for ME 72 have varied in the past, but the overall essence of the class has been unchanged: to provide an engineering experience that utilizes the student’s innovative capabilities.

The class is indeed unique. “The class is a blast,” according to run-up Morgan Venable. Venable suggests that other departments design similar classes in their own contexts. What is also unique according to the instructor, Professor Erik Antonsson, is that the students, while knowing that they will eventually compete against each other, “look for our first issue coming on Jan. 14!”

The California Tech

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 10
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER 7, 2001

RICKETS STILL STRUGGLES TO KEEP FIREPOT

by Michelle Giran

Crows were cheering in a packed auditorium on Thursday, December 6, as small robots attempted to push hockey pucks up an increasingly steep slope.

It was the culmination of ten weeks of hard work by the thirty students of the ME 72 class. For the whole of the fall term, these students, working in teams of two, had been constantly and creatively designing, building, modifying, and testing their inventions in preparation for the final competition.

On the first day of class, students were given a box of “junk,” the only materials that they could use to make their robotic creations. In addition, the students also received a thick packet of rules and guidelines that would govern their task. As it was last year, the control of robots would be “wireless.” The goal was the project was clear: competing robots would attempt to score the greater number of points by pushing as many of the pucks as possible into the higher portions of the slope while also preventing their opponents from scoring. Living, sleeping, dreaming in the lab, students created fully functional robots in time for the ME 72 Engineering Design Competition.

Many students even took lighter course loads, projecting the large amount of time they would be spending on their project.

This year’s second issue of the Caltech Undergraduate Research Journal bears safe haven for it all—whether it’s topology and carbon nanotubes or Ebola and “Cat Eyes.” After a summer-long treatment of editing, pruning and tuning, the journal’s latest edition hit the shelves last week in libraries across the Caltech campus.

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Please see ME 72 on page 3

The Poincare-Hopf Index Theorem doesn’t mean much to the average student. And among the less physics-inclined; who would’ve guessed that this year’s ME 72 story is about the Cat Eyes? After a summer-long treatment of editing, pruning and tuning, the journal’s latest edition hit the shelves last week in libraries across the Caltech campus.

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Please see ME 72 on page 3

Inside the Tech

The Usual

Features

Opinions ................ 7
Reviews ................ 8
Comics ................ 10-11
Random Access ........ 9

The Dean’s Corner ....... 11

A startup publication from last spring, the CURJ has carved a quick niche in nationwide academia. “The current leadership has very high standards,” said Junior Paul Choi, incoming content editor. “It’s already comparable to something commercially printed.”

Stated to publish twice yearly, a barrage of editors had ample time to fine-tune their work, and the result is a fifty-page full-color compilation of quaintly illustrated and thoroughly documented undergraduate research.

“The second issue has no pit-falls,” declared Srinivasan. “It is a beautiful journal to read and collect. With the second issue, we’ve reached new standards with original research, lucid writing, stunning design, and an international distribution network.”

It’s not often that an editor stakes his credibility on perfection. But despite an inarguably elegant production, readability has long been the CURJ’s trademark. “The approach lies somewhere between a scientific journal and an everyday magazine,” explained Senior Michael Russo. In fact, the issue’s lead article takes a novel look at research in pure math through the eyes of an ant crawling on a ball, searching for the wind’s doldrums. Will he succeed? Eventually, yes, asserts author Junior Steve Paik, by the properties of a sphere; but on a
Need Food Money?  
Alumni Fund - Student Phone Program is Hiring for Winter Calling!  
Network w/alumni, sharpen your interviewing & negotiation skills, support Caltech, & earn good $$$!  
Calling begins in January

Contact Lucie x3023 - lepencer@caltech.edu

The Caltech Peaceful Justice Coalition in conjunction with the Caltech Y presented the documentary Hidden Wars of Desert Storm by Gerald Forman and shot in the British desert by Antony Brophy in Baxter Hall on Thursday, November 29. From the title you can probably guess that this is not the film for most conservative, flag-waving, unquestioningly patriotic Americans (unless Dolph Lundgren was somehow involved). The film questions the actions of US activities in the Middle East, analyzes the effects of the trade embargo in the 10 years after the war and the examines the origins of “Gulf War Syndrome.”

The first part of the film is dedicated to the rise of US interests and activities in the Middle East. It states quite accurately that the US supported Saddam Hussein’s initial rise to power. As Hussein became less obedient (and supported the nationalization of oil supplies) the US viewed him as an enemy instead of an ally. Fast-forward a few years and Hussein attempts to invade Kuwait (and is effectively “undercutting” Iraq in oil sales). At this point the film makes a bold claim about US intentions. The hypothesis is that the US had chances to negotiate a peaceful agreement with Iraq but instead used the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait (and implied aggression on Saudi Arabia) as a springboard for setting up military bases in Saudi Arabia. Testimony is given that the supposed threat on Saudi Arabia was completely fabricated by a news repoter that states that she was never allowed to see photos of Iraqi supply build-ups. With the ever elusive Middle Eastern military bases established, the US then savagely attacked Iraq, bombing civilian targets in an attempt to cripple the country economically and socially in order to protect its own oil interests.

This is very disturbing news, especially when much of it comes from a perspective not so much like former US Attorney General and now head of the International Action Committee Ramsey Clark. But what type of source is he exactly? Clark has a history of being diametrically opposed to the activities of the US government, including participating in such activities as “consulting” Slobodan Milosevic and voicing support for Rwandan warlords. This by no means immediately invalidates Clark’s statements. However, one would be hard pressed to believe Clark’s statements without concrete evidence backing it up. A video which looked like civilian structures, being blown up was shown. What cannot be denied strictly from the film is the importance of those targets. Did the Iraqis purposely place equipment in sensitive civilian targets assuming they wouldn’t be bombed? Without further evidence (which unfortunately may never be known to us) it is hard to make an informed decision. What is intriguing is the suspicion that certain opposition groups that could have possibly overthrown Saddam Hussein. Former General Norman Schwarzkopf describes orders from command to stop fighting right when he felt he was ready to take Hussein out. Was it mere coincidence that the orders to stop fighting came at the same time that rebel uprisings were taking place around the country? Probably not. The cease-fire allowed the rebels to gain on Hussein’s army. Again, the US allayed claims about its war.

The agenda cannot be fully known, whether it can or cannot.

The next section focuses on the aftermath of the war: US sanctioned trade embargoes. Iraq has suffered undeniable economic devastation since they have been enacted. Despite the fact that the embargoes have been designed to hurt Hussein and not the people (as official statements proclaim), it is the claim of Iraq that they have been hurt the most. In the documentary at least, Hussein appears as plump as ever. Prior to the embargoes Iraq was one of the richest and most developed areas of the region. Children now die frequently of starvation and from lack of access to common medical supplies. The embargoes have also acted to strengthen Hussein’s demi-god status among the people as they grow to depend on the government for the little aid they receive. This section raises important questions about the intentions of the embargos and what costs the US will overlook to achieve its goals.

The last part of the documentary takes a bit of a turn and examines the link between depleted uranium (DU) weapons and supposedly unexplained Gulf War syndrome. There have been a non-trivial number of deaths after the war. The US development of DU munitions has poisoned friendly troops and the native populace; the government knows about this and is suppressing further research about it. NATO’s official stand-point is that the DU weapons do not carry sufficient radiation to cause deleterious effects to the populace. Again, it is hard to make an informed decision without conclusive research existing since such an obvious fact. The film may have been other factors that may explain the increase in cancer (chemicals, other bomb ingredients being radioactive...). That being said, leaving radioactive waste around the countryside while stating that civilians were not exposed is not proactive. The BBC states that it is highly likely that DU munitions are still being employed in Afghanistan. An interesting point is that interviews with official government spokespeople, while very vocal on many issues, are completely silent on this one. Whether they were interested in not answering or, gave unsatisfactory answers are not known.

Please See Wars on page 3

Vol 20, Number 10
December 7, 2001
A "dynamic" look at the machines that started this year's contest off.

What's new at the Y?
- Noon concert. David Harris will perform today outside of the Red Door Cafe.
- Decompression! This Saturday and Sunday on the second floor of Winnett starting at 7:00 pm. Lots of free food! Live entertainment! Saturday's performances are Out of Context (7-8pm) and Sexhamster (8-9pm). Sunday's performances are Ecphonema (7-8pm) and The Donkey Show (8-9pm).
- Union Station. Prepare and serve food for the homeless next Saturday, Dec. 15. Contact Niki (niki@caltech.edu) for more information.
- Backpacking trip. Bid farewell to finals with a 3-night hike in the San Gabriel Mountains. The group will leave Sunday Dec. 16 and return Wednesday Dec. 19. Further details to be determined. Contact jedlund@caltech.edu if you are interested. Estimated cost: $15.

Other, aid each other in their designs by offering advice and critiquing designs to their classmates. Also unique is the crowd that the competition attracts. The annual ME 72 competition is attended by a sizeable portion of the undergraduate and graduate student bodies, students from nearby secondary and elementary schools, friends and family of those involved, and others from the general public, making it the largest of any Caltech event save graduation most likely.

This year, the crowds saw machines that sprang pucks up the slope, impeded other machines with a license plate frame, and dug their metal extensions into the other machines to prevent movement. The competition was run in a double-elimination format — after losing two trials, a team would be eliminated from the competition. The physical setup of the competition seemed to work well in the beginning, though later on one of the scoring tables started to malfunction, causing a halt in any movement of the machines on it. Other minor technical difficulties caused some irritation throughout the contest, but it ran efficiently for the most part.

The highly prized ME 72 competition trophy went to a team of juniors, Alastair Kusack and Marcus Williams, whose designs managed to push pucks up the steepest and highest levels of the slope. Williams comments that all his work and long hours in the lab definitely paid off on the day of competition. And what befalls him now? All the work he missed for the last couple weeks. Well, for someone who knew he wanted to take the class, it is no surprise he chose to take the class from his pre-fresh weekend. The trophy is enough consolation.

Gabriel "G" Post and Sam Yeager compete against time and their opponents, putting their robots to the test.

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Did you know?
Decompression began in the 1970s as an opportunity for students to relax and take a much-needed break from the stress of exams. In addition to feeding hundreds of hungry students, it offers a chance to talk to old acquaintances, watch movies, and listen to music. Decompression is now a tradition, taking place each term from 7 to 11 pm on the Saturday and Sunday before finals week. 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 of the Student Services Building, south of the Holliston parking structure.
BoC Bylaw Changes

Pro

Today, undergraduates at Caltech may vote on several proposed amendments to the ASCIT Board of Control by-laws. One of the issues at hand is the proposed introduction of a post for an Avery/off-campus representative on the BoC committee. This position needs to exist, both for just representation of students not living in the undergraduate houses, and to ensure a fair upholding of the Honor Code for the entire Caltech community.

At present, each of the seven houses has one representative on the Board of Control. Two other "at large" members are appointed by the board. There is no guarantee that any of these members will be from Avery House or an off-campus housing facility though. Approximately half of all undergraduate students do not live in any of the seven houses; and many of these students are not being fairly represented in the current arrangement. There are many issues that uniquely affect these individuals which may not be heard if there isn't anyone on the Board of Control who is a member of this group. Having an Avery/off-campus BoC representative would ensure that there would always be someone who could provide information and opinions for those not living in the houses.

It is important that students have access to a BoC representative. If a student is being charged with an Honor Code violation, the only people with whom they may discuss the matter is a current or former BoC representative. As it stands now, there is no particular person to whom Avery and off-campus residents should speak; there needs to be a BoC position created to fill that role.

Part of a house BoC representative's job is to convey information to the members of their house. Although this may at times be done via e-mail, it is often accomplished through dinner announcements and house meetings. Students no longer living in one of the seven houses frequently miss this information. Part of the role of an Avery/off-campus BoC representative would be to keep these students informed on Board of Control issues through e-mail.

Creating a BoC representative to represent students not living in the houses is an important change that should occur. However, whether you, the reader, agree with this opinion or not, be sure to vote in today's election. Voting can be done online at http://donut.caltech.edu/vote/. Remember, every vote counts!

-- Jim Fugh, Avery House
Mona Sheikh, Del Mar Apartments

Con

The main purpose of the proposed bylaw amendments is to increase the number of students who feel that their views are represented on the Board of Control by including an additional off-campus/Avery representative. However, in their current form the amendments merely compound an existing problem. The BoC includes seven elected members (one from each student house) and two appointed at-large members. Contrary to popular belief, BoC reps do not represent a house or any specific group of people. They are elected to uphold the Honor Code and to render decisions without bias. The houses merely serve as a convenient vehicle through which elections can be held. A problem arises when a student who is not active in his or her house (yet who may still be an excellent candidate) wishes to be a BoC rep. The at-large positions were established to help remedy this situation, but the solution is insufficient at best. The at-large reps are not elected by the student body and thus do not actually increase the level of representation felt by students.

Rather than deal with this problem, the proposed bylaw amendments merely create an eighth group of students (off-campi/Avery) whose views are somehow "represented" by the BoC, when in fact the goal of the BoC should be to represent the entire undergraduate population as a whole. A more effective solution would allow for the at-large reps to be elected by the entire student body (rather than be appointed by the BoC). Adding an elected off-campus rep will also not contribute to the diversity of viewpoints on the BoC given that two or three members of the BoC usually live off-campus already.

-- Todd Schumann

The Outside World

by William Fong

U.S. Soldiers Killed By Friendly Fire:

On Wednesday, a satellite-guided U.S. bomb missed its intended target near Kandahar, Afghanistan killing three U.S. Special Forces soldiers and five Afghan opposition fighters who were allies with U.S. Special Forces. Many others were wounded by the explosion including 20 U.S. soldiers. The bomb was intended to attack the entrenched Taliban fighters in the area but, due to an unknown cause, the bomb went astray. Meanwhile, the four major Afghan factions signed a power deal in Germany that named Pashtun tribal leader Hamid Karazi as the interim administrator for the new government. This agreement paves the way for the formation of a 29-member interim cabinet headed by Karazi. The transfer of power from the Northern Alliance to this cabinet is scheduled for December 22. On Thursday, reports from sources suggest that anti-Taliban forces have control of the airport in Kandahar and that the Taliban are expected to surrender Kandahar to the Northern Alliance on Friday. Elsewhere, intense fighting has broken out in eastern Afghanistan at the base of the Tora Bora mountains between opposition fighters and the al-Qaeda. Osama bin Laden may possibly be situated in this area due to its extensive number of caves and tunnels and high-tech defense system.

Terrorist Attacks on Jerusalem:

Over the weekend, three suicide bombers killed 25 Israelis in Jerusalem and Haifa. In response, Israel retaliated with military strikes in the West Bank and Gaza. President Yasser Arafat's helicopter was destroyed along with many other Palestinian targets. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said that Arafat must begin cracking down on Palestinian terrorist groups by arresting 36 people suspected of being responsible for Israeli deaths. However, Arafat has yet to respond to this request. President Bush said that Arafat must find these terrorists that are trying to disrupt the peace process.

Enron Goes Bankrupt:

On Sunday, Enron filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy making it the largest company in history to file for bankruptcy. With assets valued at around $62.8 billion, Enron easily surpassed Texaco who had $35.9 billion in assets ($56.4 billion adjusted for inflation) when it filed for bankruptcy in 1987. Once a leader in the energy industry, Enron was hit particularly hard with accounting inconsistencies and financial mismanagement that resulted in its stock being devalued from $90 in August 2000 to $0.26 last Friday. Enron's neighbor, Dynegy, had plans of buying Enron for $9 billion but after S&P reduced Enron's credit rating to junk bond status and Enron rolled up $690 million in unexplained debt in one week, Dynegy pulled out of the merger. Enron was once ranked seventh among the Fortune 500.

-- Todd Schumann

The end is near.

Pick up your finals “survival pack” from Knox.

Knox Presbyterian Church offers a peaceful hour of worship and reflection. Immediately following the service we enjoy Fellowship (coffee, tea and theee!) 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.
Choir Rehearsals 11:15 a.m.
(Every other week after worship.)

Knox Presbyterian Church
225 South Hill Ave.*
Pasadena, California 91106-3402
Phone 626.449.2144
E-Mail connect@knoxpasadena.org
www.knoxpasadena.org
Jane Newstead, Minister

*Northwest corner of Del Mar & Hill. We’re within walking distance :)
ARC ANNOUNCEMENT

Student/Faculty Conference Preparations

Preparations for the Student/Faculty Conference are well under way. On Monday afternoon, Martha-Helene Stapleton and Nicholas Knouf presented the latest update to the Faculty Board. The committees have been finalized and are: Academic — Core Curriculum; Honor Code; Quality of Life Outside the Classroom; and Quality of Life — Women in Science. You can find much more information about these committees at the Student/Faculty Conference website at http://sfc.caltech.edu. There you can find the presentation made to the Faculty Board, the questions that each committee is expected to discuss, and discussions regarding the committees.

We are now looking for faculty and students who are interested in serving on these committees. If you are a student who is interested, please send an e-mail to sf@sf.caltech.edu, with the following:

Your name, year, option, Committee you are interested in, and why you are interested in the committee.

If you are a faculty member who is interested in serving on one of these committees, please e-mail sf@sf.caltech.edu.

Be sure to read the general questions that each committee will discuss at http://sfc.caltech.edu.

Nicholas Knouf, Director of Academic Affairs, ASCIT

EXCOMM Announcement

The Executive Committee recently held interviews to select the new ASCIT Vice President (ex officio Board of Control Chair) and I am pleased to announce Katharina Kohler as the new Vice President. The Executive Committee would like to thank everyone who expressed an interest in the position. To see our ruling in this case please visit our committee’s website at http://donut.caltech.edu/~excomm. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to the Executive Committee Chair at ait@its.caltech.edu.

Al Valdivia
Executive Committee Chair

The California Tech

ARC MINUTES

Minutes of the ARC Meeting November 28, 2001

Present: Nick Knouf (Chairman), Jonathan Lowery (Dabney), Vesna Sok (Roddock), Clinton Conley (Lloyd), Larry Stewart (Rep-at-Large); Juan Ho (Rep-at-Large)

General Meeting

CSI Info. Nick presented some enrollment statistics from Gloria Brewer in the Registrar’s Office comparing the number of students who dropped CSI this year vs. the number who were dropping in the previous years. 98 students have dropped this year, as compared to 50 last year, and 31 two years ago. Accordingly, the remaining number of students enrolled, 103, is much lower than normal. Hopefully, these statistics will be used to convince faculty that an alternative CS class with an emphasis on programming should be developed.

Library Committee. The Library Committee will make the recommendation to construct a new central library if the Provost decides to move the collection out of Millikan and use the building as administrative space. (Dabney)

Student-Faculty Committee. Nick has developed a website specifically for the committees that will be presenting at the Student-Faculty Conference. Each of the committees will be meeting extensively before the date of the conference, and will be required to place updates on the website.

The topics that will be addressed will be divided between the Undergraduate Quality of Life Committee, the Honor Code Committee, an Academic Policies Committee, and another committee as yet to be determined.

Faculty/Staff recommendations. A brainstorming for suggestions to faculty about academics: to structure problem set due dates, especially within the Core, so that multiple homework assignments are not due on the same day coordinate class times more effectively to minimize overlap re-evaluate the number of units required for graduation and for each major; in comparison to other universities on a trimester system, taking even four classes is excessive, yet it appears to barely meet the minimum number of units required per term here; reduce replication of material between classes, especially within the Core math classes persuade each of the departments to publish course evaluations together, similar to the “Teaching Quality Feedback Report” that the Geology and Planetary Sciences Department sends to students. The GPS-department has published these evaluations based on student comments from questionnaires that are more descriptive than those used typically. The feedback evaluation books could serve as a supplement to faculty advising and option books. allow professors outside the math departments to teach Ma 1 and Ma 2. Presently a problem is finding professors in the Math Department who are enthusiastic about teaching these core classes, which are not related to the research that math professors do anyway. Also, many students are not especially happy about the quality of lectures. A possible solution is to allow members of the E&AS department, or outside the Math Department in one of these classes, hiring lecturers, possibly visiting faculty, for the sole purpose of teaching classes and not to perform research, in hopes of increasing the quality of teaching.

In addition, the advising system as a whole is not very satisfactory. This appears to be a problem at universities around the country and not solely at Caltech. With more effort into the undergraduate option books, students can be, less reliant on bad advisers and make better class-selecting decisions. As preparation for the Student-Faculty Conference will be substantial, however, work on the option books in this administration will be secondary.

Faculty member possibilities. In the last few minutes of the meeting, the representatives named faculty members who may be interested in serving on at least one of these committees for the Student-Faculty Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

June Ho

The Copenhagen Intervention

Exploring Science on Stage

Monday, December 10, 2001 • 8 p.m.
Caltech’s Beckman Auditorium

Why did Nat Gorman fail to build an atom bomb? This roundtable discussion will explore a pivotal, yet ambiguous, 1941 meeting between the founders of quantum mechanics, Werner Heisenberg and his mentor Niels Bohr. The panel will consider the broader scientific, historical, philosophical, and artistic dimensions of this encounter and its dramatization in Michael Frayn’s play COPENHAGEN currently showing in L.A.

A panel discussion of the play COPENHAGEN, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Panel

Steven Kousoulis
Provost and Professor of Theoretical Physics, Caltech

Diana Berkun Bouchwald
Associate Professor of the History of Science, and editor and director of the Einstein Papers Project at Caltech

Hawk Serraton (Werner Heisenberg)
COPENHAGEN cast member

Robert Chrisry
Institute Professor of Theoretical Physics, Emeritus, Caltech

Marge Leighton
Chair, Department of the Heisenberg family

Jay Lakhbar
Administrator of the Beckman Institute, Caltech

We are currently seeking the following candidates:

Senior Director / Director

AmCyte, Inc., a leader in cell / tissue transplantation, is seeking a highly qualified individual to direct the Molecular Cell Biology Group. As a key member of leading scientists focused on proliferated islet cells, the candidate will be responsible for advancing our research in cell proliferation and differentiation.

Qualifications:

• Ph.D. in Molecular Cell Biology or a related field with a strong publication record and a proven ability to develop and implement robust research strategies.

Senior Scientists

Conduct cell biology, molecular biology, and biochemistry research related to the growth and differentiation of pancreatic beta cells. Contribute to the development cell therapies for the control of diabetes and its complications.

Qualifications:

• Ph.D. in cell biology, or related field with a strong publication record and a proven ability to develop and implement robust research strategies.

• Biotechnology or biopharmaceutical company experience and/or tissue engineering experience highly desirable.

Research Associates

Research Associate will be involved in cell and tissue culture, immunocytochemistry, DNA cloning, and RTTPCR.

Qualifications:

• B.A/B.S degree in Life Sciences. 2 years experience desirable.
Correction to last week's Tech

It was incorrectly stated in last week's Tech that tuition was to be raised by $5,000 next term. The tuition increase being considered by Caltech administration is for the 2002-03 academic year, and will not be as large as $5,000. Sources report that top administration officials met last Friday regarding tuition, where they considered increased suggestions made by the Faculty-Student committee on scholarships and financial aid. The proposal from that committee was comparable with the modest tuition increase that occurred this past year, and it is not expected that the administration will deviate far from that recommendation. The Tech apologizes for any anxiety the article may have caused.

Ricketts frog speaks out on firepo st issue

I am confused about the recent decision of the administration to ban the use of the firepo st in the Ricketts courtyard. It seems to be an arbitrary decision with little justification, a flagrant violation of the Constitution and an agreed-upon policy as presented to me just weeks ago. When I became a Scurve, I was told that the policy on the first floor was to have fires as long as we obeyed the law and did nothing to endanger our safety. So why have they taken it away?

I have been in our courtyard during the vast majority of fires this term. I can personally guarantee that nothing that violates the fire code (available at http://ordินкт.com/edewt/ Pasadena_DATA/TITLE14/ Chapter_14_28_FIRE_ PREVENTION_CODE/ 93_08_021.html) happened during any of these events. I also have seen no evidence of unsafe activity related to the fire. Indeed, the only activity I have observed by fires in the pot is conversation, relaxation, and house bonding - none of which could possibly be considered dangerous.

I've learned that tradition is an important part of life as a Caltech student, from the Fleming Cannon to the Ride of the Valkyries. The firepo st is that tradition that defines Ricketts, the symbol of our house. I've already come to think of as home. I've been here only a few months; nonetheless, the thought of losing this most central element is devastating. I hope the administration realizes how important the pot is to the Scurves, and that the pain caused by its destruction would far outweigh the benefits.

--David Grisswood
grisswolf@caltech.edu

The California Tech
The Very BIG Stupid

“The Very Big Stupid is a thing which breeds by eating The Future. Have you ever seen it? It sometimes disguises itself as a good-looking quarterly bottom line, derived by closing the R&D department.” —Frank Zappa

If you’ve been reading the Tech for the past few weeks, you’ve probably noticed a trend. Recently, the administration seems determined to get rid of the few things that make Caltech unique and tolerable. Parking spaces, health insurance, and little things like course catalogs all have been targeted. In a few weeks, the Task Force on Undergraduate Residence Life will present its proposal for changes to the House system, and some of these will certainly be changes for the worse.

One of the frequent justifications given for these recent changes is that many other universities do things a different way. Other schools don’t let freshmen park on campus, so we don’t need to. Other schools don’t provide health insurance to their undergrads, so we don’t need to. They have a high tuition, so we should raise ours too, even though we just received the largest donation in history.

While the administration is busy getting rid of benefits that students seem to care about, they seem to be forgetting a few of the bad parts that are unique to Caltech. At other schools, more than 30% of the students are women. At other schools, students don’t consider taking “only” five classes to be a light workload. Life at Tech is so terrible that students are only considered depressed if they are suicidal. Even a comic strip, not a reason to see a psychiatrist.

If the current trends continue, I predict a pretty bleak future. All of the positive things that differentiate Caltech from the alternatives will be gone, but the tons of work and frustration will still be here. Why, then, would anybody want to come here?

I don’t know about anyone else, but I’ll be telling the brutal truth to all of the prefrosh this year. Donations from alumni are sure to take a huge hit too. If Tech didn’t give anything to you (besides emotional scars), why should you give anything back to Tech?

Now, I’ll admit, some of this is overreaction. The outcry over health insurance has prompted the administration to rethink its decision, and some students are now on the committee that will decide the final policy. But this sort of thing is likely to continue, and it is not a good trend every time that they try to sneak something by us. So speak up or else the efforts to make Caltech like “other schools” will make us worse than all of them.

—Chris Elion

Opinions

Burning Issues: Taking the Student out of Student Affairs

Last week’s article that cited “fireballs, flaming sawdust (and) ten-foot bonfires in the (Ricketts) house fire pot” was certainly sensational. The stock picture of the fire was quite impressive. Those forgotten activities of the past are a lot more visually dramatic than anything the pot has been used for in the past four years. Ricketts RA Jessica Edwards said the recent “10 foot fire” was only “about 2 feet high.”

Indeed, the administration has said that “Ricketts has, more or less, honored the tradition” that allowed fires for the past four years. This agreement, and the Caltech Fire Policy which allows fires in the pot, were made with the involvement of students, faculty, and staff. If a small group of administrators chooses to dissolve the agreement and change the fire policy, it would be far more sensational than any fire—whether 2 feet or 10 feet high.

The Student Affairs mission statement claims that “in collaboration with students, faculty and staff, we serve our community by responding to the issues, ideas and needs of all students.” I hope they continue to take these agreements and policies as seriously as we do.

—Rick Karnessky,
Ricketts President

Task Force on UG Residence Life Initiatives

In December 2000, President Baltimore charged the Task Force for Undergraduate Residence Life Initiatives to review the overall conditions of the current Houses and system of undergraduate residence life at Caltech, assess the need for infrastructural renovations and systemic changes in the Houses, and formulate recommendations based on the findings. The key recommendations of the task force are to:

I. Renovate and reconstruct the existing undergraduate houses. The task force unanimously recommends that a major rehab and renovation of the existing undergraduate houses at Caltech, assess the need for infrastructural renovations and systemic changes in the Houses, and formulate recommendations based on the findings. The key recommendations of the task force are to:

II. Create a mixture of singles, doubles, and some suites in the south and north Houses. The task force recommends that attention be paid to the mix of residential styles and new social common spaces to meet student preferences. The task force emphasizes that any suite style options should not be isolating and could be modified with alley layouts. The Institute should also explore the creation of a women’s residence off campus and/or a women’s suite or alley on campus.

III. Act on immediate physical infrastructure needs. The plan to renovate and reconstruct the student Houses is necessarily a long-term project. The Task force recommends that the Institute explore the short-term physical and life/safety upgrades in the Houses that need to be pursued in the immediate future. The task force further agrees that activities in the south Houses are unacceptable, and individual students and Houses must be held accountable for such damage. Enforcement of this policy should not wait until expensive renovation or new construction is undertaken.

IV. Reconsider Rotation. The task force recommends that attention be paid to the mix of institutional imperatives. The task force recommends that Rotation be seriously reconsidered, and that the administration to rethink its decision, and some students are now on the committee that will decide the final policy. But this sort of thing is likely to continue, and it is not a good trend every time that they try to sneak something by us. So speak up or else the efforts to make Caltech like “other schools” will make us worse than all of them.

—Chris Elion

VI. Reexamine House traditions. The task force realizes that many House traditions provide an important source of pride and camaraderie for Caltech students and alumni. We also recognize that some House activities are troubling, that the Honor Code is not recognized by many students as addressing such concerns, and that change is needed. The task force recommends that house practices (especially initiation activities and dinner rituals) that cause considerable distress to even small numbers of students be carefully reviewed, perhaps by a group of students, administrators, and faculty. Student self-governance must be responsible and accountable.

VII. Ensure equity in institutional treatment across different residential populations. The task force unanimously recommends that the Institute ensure equity in institutional treatment and access to campus information and participation (including in the selection of students to Institute and Faculty committees) to all undergraduates, those living in or affiliated with the Houses and those who are not. In addition, we suggest the establishment of an easily accessible lounge in the planned Campus center or elsewhere on campus for off-campus students.

VIII. Explore Instituting a Faculty in Residence Program in the North or South Houses. The task force recommends that the Institute explore the creation of faculty apartments for the north and south Houses in order to create increased opportunities for faculty-student interaction outside the classroom.
Paseo Colorado: a closer look

BY TAMMY MA

Since it’s opening on September 28 this year, Paseo Colorado—Pasadena’s newest mall—has served as a trendy hangout and place to shop. With its three blocks of shops, dining establishments, and a movie theater, located between Marengo and Los Robles Avenues, Paseo Colorado has become a hub of activity in the center of Pasadena. Paseo can serve your purposes from Christmas shopping to a place to take your date for a night out on the town.

Beautifully maintained flora and several fountains in Paseo’s open-air setting greet the visitor to Paseo Colorado. Evening visitors also get to experience the colorful and decorative strings of lights. A few murals on the walls feature scenes familiar to—such as scenes of the Caltech campus.

Paseo Colorado is host to a variety of different stores, from the traditional Macy’s and Sam Goody, Kay-Bee Toys, and Bath and Body Works to the more ecclectic stores of Leather Town, Japanese Weekend Maternity, and Yankee Candle Company. It also holds over twenty restaurants from diverse cuisines. While many visitors complain that stores border on the expensive side, this can partly be explained by the fact that there are certain specialty retail stores that are often not found in normal malls (such as Quicksilver Boardriders Club). Paseo Colorado also features Brookstone, Eddie Bauer, DSW Shoe Wearhouse, Sephora, Bombay Company, Coach, and Lucky Brand Dungarees—all great places to pick up quick gifts for friends and family.

Paseo is also home to the new Pacific Theatres Paseo 14. Movie tickets are a pricey $8.75, with no student discount. However, the price is justified if you want to enjoy the plush stadium seats with armrests that can be removed, allowing you and your date to get just a little bit closer.

And finding a good restaurant at Paseo Colorado to take your date may pose somewhat of a problem. "P.F. Chang’s [China Bistro] is the only restaurant to sit down and has good enough food for a date. It has a good range of Chinese food, for reasonable prices."

Other purposes from Christmas Eddie Bauer, DSW Shoe Other places to grab some:

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Other purposes from Christmas Eddie Bauer, DSW Shoe Other places to grab some:

Madeleine K. Albright, the first female Secretary of State and a former U.S. Senator, is the author of the New York Times bestseller, which is part of the Distinguished Speaker Series. A statesman of rare diplomacy and wit, she has been a public figure for over a quarter century. She has been involved in key foreign policy decisions as a part of the Distinguished Speaker Series. A statesman of rare diplomacy and wit, she has been a public figure for over a quarter century.

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On a more serious note, Albright referred to the fact that she considered herself to be very lucky to have had the opportunity to be a woman in the greatest country of the world. She said that America was a land that vowed for "freedom or death" and a land where everyone had opportunities regardless of race, religion, color or any other so-called aspect of discrimination. The fact that the first-ever female Secretary of State in the US is followed by Colin Powell, the first black Secretary of State said something about the US with respect to its levels of freedom, she thought.

A country loving freedom to such levels, the US is now confronting terrorism. Albright discussed this from both a political and social standpoint. "We feel safer now because we are more conscious of our responsibilities after the attacks... The attacks have not changed life as much as people seem to think but yes they have made us more alert... We will not be intimidated.”

From a political point of view, she mentioned that the US should not repeat history in Afghanistan when it pulled out after a decade in 1989 af- ter being allies with the country against the Soviet Union. She said that cur- rently the war is being fought by the Taliban, and that the US is "Haunting" the title track of her latest album Haunted, she left off the stage and mingled fervently with the audience, asking random people to sing along with her. At various other times, she also encouraged people to come up on stage and dance or sing with her. Essentially, the Roxy became a wild dancing party.

Albright once on the subject of the Cold War, she commented about US–Russia relations and said that she did not view them to be facing a new dawn as everyone did but that she thought Putin, the current Russian president, was being "conspicuously energetic" because Russia’s infrastructure is rotting, and hence he wants Russia to be an ally of the US. She asserted that he knows clearly, though, that the US and Russia do not have the same goals.

Other foreign issues, like those of Kashmir and Palestine, were mentioned. Albright admitted that the US must encourage and pressure Russia to reach a peaceful agreement, but she did not see the conflict of Kashmir as it is probably the most effective way of decreasing tension in the region of South Asia. On the Is- rael-Palestine issue, she said that "We have not seen much progress in the resolution of the conflict yet; it is probably too early to be more than an encouragement."

However, she cautioned the current government that even the Northern Alliance might not be what they seem. They might turn out to be more than just fighters. She congratulated Bush’s government on its political moves and confirmed that the US was also considering the human standpoint of people in Afghanistan by providing food and humanitarian aid. Albright admitted that the us- was no problem with the threat of security that every American once felt and that now everyone feels scared of what tomorrow’s breaking news will be. However, she reassured that the US needed to maintain calm and most of all its stance against ter- rorism by detecting and disman- ning al-Qaeda not only in Af- ghanistan, but also everywhere else in the world. It is, she agreed, probably the most fluid and dynamic point in foreign policy ever since the Cold War. Once on the subject of the Cold War, she commented about US–Russia relations and said that she did not view them to be facing a new dawn as everyone else did but that she thought Putin, the current Russian president, was being “conspicuously energetic” because Russia’s infrastructure is rotting, and hence he wants Russia to be an ally of the US. She asserted that he knows clearly, though, that the US and Russia do not have the same goals. Albright once on the subject of the Cold War, she commented about US–Russia relations and said that she did not view them to be facing a new dawn as everyone did but that she thought Putin, the current Russian president, was being “conspicuously energetic” because Russia’s infrastructure is rotting, and hence he wants Russia to be an ally of the US. She asserted that he knows clearly, though, that the US and Russia do not have the same goals. Albright once on the subject of the Cold War, she commented about US–Russia relations and said that she did not view them to be facing a new dawn as everyone did but that she thought Putin, the current Russian president, was being “conspicuously energetic” because Russia’s infrastructure is rotting, and hence he wants Russia to be an ally of the US. She asserted that he knows clearly, though, that the US and Russia do not have the same goals. Albright once on the subject of the Cold War, she commented about US–Russia relations and said that she did not view them to be facing a new dawn as everyone did but that she thought Putin, the current Russian president, was being “conspicuously energetic” because Russia’s infrastructure is rotting, and hence he wants Russia to be an ally of the US. She asserted that he knows clearly, though, that the US and Russia do not have the same goals. Albright once on the subject of the Cold War, she commented about US–Russia relations and said that she did not view them to be facing a new dawn as everyone did but that she thought Putin, the current Russian president, was being “conspicuously energetic” because Russia’s infrastructure is rotting, and hence he wants Russia to be an ally of the US. She asserted that he knows clearly, though, that the US and Russia do not have the same goals. Albright once on the subject of the Cold War, she commented about US–Russia relations and said that she did not view them to be facing a new dawn as everyone did but that she thought Putin, the current Russian president, was being “conspicuously energetic” because Russia’s infrastructure is rotting, and hence he wants Russia to be an ally of the US. She asserted that he knows clearly, though, that the US and Russia do not have the same goals. Albright once on the subject of the Cold War, she commented about US–Russia relations and said that she did not view them to be facing a new dawn as everyone did but that she thought Putin, the current Russian president, was being “conspicuously energetic” because Russia’s infrastructure is rotting, and hence he wants Russia to be an ally of the US. She asserted that he knows clearly, though, that the US and Russia do not have the same goals.
Lately the amount of junk email I have been getting in my mailbox has almost tripled. After intensive detective work I realized that the culprit is just one of my many email addresses. Some how, during the times when I didn’t know enough about spam and phishing, I had given out my email address to some pop-up box that asked for it (me being the naive trusting kind at that time in my life). Now the collector of that email address seems to have sold it along with many others to a mailing list company, that has promptly been selling it to everyone who could pay about anywhere from a penny to a buck for each address. Suddenly I know very important things...stuff that I had no idea I needed to know like: How to rebuild a horrible credit history,...and where to find cheap herbal viagra, etc, etc.

I can’t get rid of this email address. For all I know, the only way some of my long lost friends can contact me, but after I set some filters in my email client this unwanted barrage of information stopped. People who have read my columns before (here and online) and have emailed me asking me if there were effective ways to counter Spam (as junkmail is often called, see inset as to why it is called thus). I will outline in this column one way of doing this, and suggest a few alternatives too.

The way I counter spam these days is pretty simple and very effective. I own a few domain names. When I registered my domain name I enabled an option on them where I got a ‘catchall’ email address. For example, say my domain name is foo.com. A catchall email address would catch every email that came with the email address looking like “something@foo.com” and forward it to my real email address. This functionality is available from your domain registrar, and if it isn’t quite easy to setup at your DNS service provider. There are free DNS service providers like www.mydns.com which enable this functionality.

Every time I now give out my email address on the internet (especially at websites and mailing lists) I make up an email address specific to that site. For example, when I create a profile at amazon.com I enter my email address as amazon@foo.com (where foo.com is my domain). Suppose I get an email to that address from a party not related to amazon.com, I will certainly know that amazon.com sold my email address (or a hacker stole it from amazon.com). Armed with this knowledge I would approach amazon.com, and quite often they comply by taking me off the list, initiating legal proceedings against perpetrators, etc. This is an extremely effective way of keeping track of how your email addresses are used.

While researching this article, I happened upon a few guys who had realized how powerful this tool could be. So for those of us who might not have a chance to get our own domain name, a few intrepid volunteers got together to start a service that does exactly this. Its free and quite useful. Of course, it being free, its tough to predict how long it will remain that way (or in service), but it does look like they are committed and well meaning providers. Oh and, here is the link: http://sneakemail.com.

Here you can generate a new email address of the type 2fg15cL001@sneakemail.com. One of the cool things I found in this service is that when an email comes to you through the address, email and address and reply-to fields are modified so that you can just hit reply and not worry about giving out your real email address to the recipient. Head out and give it a shot.

There are other resources online. Here are a few:

- Gazett Anti-Spam
- China in the World
- Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology
- Spamhaus Project: This database tracks known Spam Gangs, Spam Support Services, and lists providers who keep organized spamming alive by hosting stealth spamming services on their networks. The link: http://www.spamhaus.com.
- Spamcop: A paid service (pretty cheap) that has gotten good reviews about filtering spam. Not only does it flag spam, it also helps you complain effectively. The link: http://www.spamcop.com.
- SpamCombat: A site that has a large number of web based utilities to track spammers, etc. The link: http://www.spamcombat.com.

I wish you all the best for your finals and a very merry Christmas.

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Marcus in Macedonia: Skopje Scoop

I’ve become fond of spending my weekends in Kosovo, which is easily accessible from Skopje and accessible via a free United Nations shuttle bus. It is a nice change of pace after a week of routine life in Macedonia where the electricity is always on and ethnic tensions are only occasionally expressed violently. Recently, I have been probing the situation of Kosovo’s remaining Serbs.

I visited a village called Grachanica, not far from the city of Peja, where one thousand Serbian farmers live quiet farmer’s lives under the protective watch of NATO troops. Reading historical notes of Yugoslavia, it is easy to hate the Serbs who have shown hardly a nod to human rights as they’ve sniped civilians in Sarajevo, captured the men of Srebrenica, and cleansed Kosovo of its Albanians. Maybe Kosovar Albanians can be excused for wanting to eliminate every Serb in Kosovo, but walking through a Serbian town puts a stop to such notions.

What I saw in Grachanica is not murderers with beady eyes waiting for the day when Greater Serbia returns. I saw children playing in the road before they ran up to me, the interesting foreigner, and asked in a funny way, “Hello. Are you our?” I saw a farmer walking his cattle through town, staff in hand, smiling when I asked if I could take his picture.

I heard the calls of a colourfully dressed bull and a hint of resentment.

Features

Random Access

by Vikram Diner

SPAM: Unsolicted Commercial Email. Monty Python gets the credit for popularizing the slang term spam for UCE. One of the Monty Python skits has the Vikings singing “SPAM, SPAM, SPAM...” in an increasing crescendo drowning out other conversation. Similarity in how it drowns out internet discourse made UCE.

Your own domain name: Its not as difficult or as expensive as it seems on the outset to get a domain name. Head out to mydomain.com, godaddy.com or joker.com to register domain names for less than 15$ a year. If you want DNS service as well, it might be a few dollars more.

ALBRIGHT: continued from page 8

Albright said that the ‘American’ brand can be used by the US to project power, influence, and credibility abroad. The US has a big responsibility towards the rest of the world because it is obviously in the third category and also because it has personal interests.

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Dear’s Corner

And a happy new year

by Jean-Paul Revel

Our lives are bound with traditions, which provide historical continuity and allow us to see the passing of time. It is easy to assume that the strict observance of traditions is characteristic of cultures in which social, emotional, and/or religious considerations are prime. Yet traditions play a large role even here at Caltech. One would think a priory to the good. There are many forms specific to fuzzy warm traditions. We stick to traditions not just to ritualize or added with near impunity. Actually these figures, although similar in appearance, provide comfort and reassurance. But traditions are not always in our favor. There are many occasions when they can become real obstacles to progress, to safety, to rational understanding of the world.

One of the appeal of traditions is the link to others that they provide. This is true for local traditions as well as for the grand traditions, so pervasive that we think of them as universal. Never mind that the universal is a tradition itself. A feature of tradition.

One might imagine that any change must be gradual, so as not to wreck the historical continuity that is part of the tradition. Yet features can be dropped or added with near impunity. Music is associated with Christmas, take the custom of caroling for example. It is a tradition that the crowded apartments in the big modern apartment houses of urban environment make it difficult to maintain—but the tradition continues in the form of Christmas concerts, of CDs and nostalgic tapes offered for sale in lengthy TV ads etc. Even the introduction of new elements does not necessarily wreck the preexisting tradition. Rudolph the red nosed reindeer, came into existence in 1939 as part of an ad campaign for Montgomery Ward in Chicago, and popularized by the singer Gene Autry in 1949, but Christmas would not be the same today without him. Kwanzaa has become part of the end of the year celebrations over a very short period of time. New customs, new ideas, to become established, need to provide something positive, to at least some of the people involved. Why else would the practices be continued and become traditional. That is just as

it is in biology, where particular traits become enshrined in the genome, because of advantages, sometimes arcane, which they confer. As long as they provide some positive value, even dangerous traditions become established. An apparently benign and esthetically rewarding practice, such as displaying trees and boughs, presents grave fire dangers even when not combined with a cracking fire in the hearth. Luckily these days, electric lights are used instead of candles in decorating the tree, but even they are not absolutely safe. Another obviously negative tradition is the custom of shooting in the air to celebrate the incoming New Year. Every year there are fatalities. So lets enjoy the traditions but not surrender thoughtful control of our actions. To all of you the traditional greetings of the Season, and warmest wishes for all success and happiness.

A bientot!

Jean-Paul Revel
Dean of Students

By Mike Yeh, Ben Lee, and Tim Wan

All characters are fictional. Any resemblance to anybody is purely coincidental. Comics represent the views of the authors and not the tech staff. Contact feedback@cripplingdepression.com

Crippling Depression

www.CripplingDepression.com

By Mike Yeh, Ben Lee, and Tim Wan

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS
The Glamour Magazine's 2002 Top Ten College Women Competition has begun. The competition is open to full-time undergraduates in any discipline. All students must be postmarked by January 31, 2002. Contact the Dean of Student Office, 102 Parsons-Gates, for the application.

Work-Study Opportunity at JPL: Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory Archival Data Analysis for Studying Temporal and Spectral Properties of Gamma-Ray Sources. This is an announcement of opportunity for one or two undergraduate students in physics or astronomy to participate in a part-time work-study research program to process and analyze archival data obtained by the Burst and Transient Spectroscopy Experiment (BATSE) onboard the NASA Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory. The major scientific objective is to study the properties of gamma-ray emission from cosmic sources including black holes and neutron star systems. For this research, it would be useful if the student had some experience with programming as well as working with the Interactive Data Language (IDL). The position is based during the semester and possibly up to 40 hours per week during the summer. Interested, or for further information, contact Dr. James C. Ling, JPL 156-327, (818)354-2819, james.c.ling@jpl.nasa.gov.

To ensure that everyone has a safe and merry holiday the Environment, Health and Safety Office (EH&S Office) has put together some helpful holiday decoration tips that are useful for work and home. Find me where to get a flame-retardant tree, what kind of lights to use, and how to hang the tinsel! Go to the EH&S Office web site at http://www.safety.caltech.edu to get more info. Happy Holidays!

As a result of Irvine Foundation funding, Caltech has a limited amount of money available for diverse programs related to underrepresented minorities and women for academic year 2001-2002. Proposals from students, faculty, and staff are welcome. The application form can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. This funding also includes an opportunity for funding of projects focused on women's and gender issues. Applications are due by November 1, 2001. Contact Dr. James Ling, ext. 6163.

The Caltech Dance Troupe will be sponsoring Beginners' Hip-Hop Dance Classes on Tuesdays, 9:10pm-10:30pm, Braun multipurpose room beginning October 9. All classes meet at Braun multipurpose room. Beginners meet from 9:30-10:30pm, intermediate from 10:30-11:30pm, and advanced from 11:30pm-12:30am. There is no experience necessary and no special clothing or shoes are required. Beginners have a $2 fee for the introductory class. This fee will be credited to the next class. There is a $25 fee for the advanced class. For more info, see our website: http://www.its.caltech.edu/troupe. Questions or Comments? Email: troupe@caltech.edu.

Are you interested in discussing life at Caltech and in the United States? If so, the Intercollegiate Discussion and Support Group provides a forum for Caltech students to explore the process of cultural adjustment and relating across cultures. The group will meet every Monday beginning October 22 from 12-1 pm in the Women's Lounge. No experience is needed and no special clothing or shoes are required. For more information, contact Jane Widner at (818) 972-9941 or rich dekeyn at (626) 395-6798 or email at atheneum@caltech.edu.

Elaine De Karman Fellowship Trust: The Trust was established to provide financial assistance to outstanding graduate students in science and engineering who wish to study in the United States. The Trust receives donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations. The scope of the Trust's support, except for the quality of the applicant, is not limited to any particular discipline. For additional information on nuclear industry career opportunities and the National Academy of Sciences, please visit http://www.nai.org. Contact Dr. James Ling, ext. 6163.

Piano Player Wanted! The Caltech Swing Band is looking for a piano player. Must be able to read music and have some knowledge of chords and jazz styles. If interested, please contact Bill Bingle webbing@caltech.edu or the Caltech Student Programming Board. The Caltech Women's Center invites you to be part of the new and exciting Center. For more information contact Dr. James Ling, ext. 6163.

End-of-term Ballroom Dance Party - Join us for a fun-filled ballroom, swing, and latin party! All of your favorite music for dancing, plus feel free to bring your own. There will be a beginners' Polka lesson from 9 - 9:30 pm. Plenty of refreshments. Free as always! Beginners are welcome. Contact the Women's Center at ext. 5221 or stop by our office in room 265 of the Center for Student Services.

The Emerging Opportunities: Are you interested in discussing life at Caltech and in the United States? If so, the Intercollegiate Discussion and Support Group provides a forum for Caltech students to explore the process of cultural adjustment and relating across cultures. The group will meet every Monday beginning October 22 from 12-1 pm in the Women’s Lounge. No experience is needed and no special clothing or shoes are required. Beginners have a $2 fee for the introductory class. This fee will be credited to the next class. There is a $25 fee for the advanced class. For more information, contact Jane Widner at (818) 972-9941 or Rich Dekany at (626) 395-6798 or email at atheneum@caltech.edu.

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