Dear Readers,

As you have noticed by now, the publication date of The California Tech has been changed from Fridays to Mondays. Though the change may seem to be sudden to some of you, we agree that sometimes it was warranted. But what is less understood is that most of our faults are a direct consequence of our lack of time to work on the paper. Our previous publication date left little time for reporters to write their articles and even less time for the editors to put together the paper.

We’re not saying it was an impossible task; after all, numerous people have done the job before us as did we for about a year. However, the pressures that were added seemed unnecessary. Editors and reporters should not be penalized for their participation in the newspaper by doing poorly in classes or getting even less sleep than the average Techers.

Please don’t suppose that we made this change for selfish reasons. If we had intended to make life easier for ourselves, we would have made the change much sooner (as editors we are responsible for only three more issues). Our intentions were to improve the quality of the paper as well as the lives of the people involved in the process. Hopefully, reporters and editors can spend more time improving the quality of the paper (meaning that we will have enough time to copy edit the WHOLE paper—no more horrifying mistakes!).

Lastly, for those of you who are traditionalists, we realize that the Friday morning Tech was important. But change must occur. In fact, we are not the first editors to have altered the publication date: in the 1960s and 70s The Tech was published on Thursdays. So change has occurred in the past and is occurring now.

Your Editors (for a bit longer),

Neda Afsarmanesh & Janet Zhou

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Alida to speak at commencement

BY RUMI CHINAKA

Renowned actor, director and writer Alan Alda will speak at this year’s commencement ceremony on June 14th, 2002.

Personally contacted by President Baltimore, Alda will have the honor of delivering the commencement address at the Institute’s 108th ceremony. Alda’s recent portrayal of Richard Feynman in the play QED familiarized him with Caltech and its student population. Alda has appeared on the Broadway stage and in dozens of movies. He is well known for his role as surgeon Hawkeye Pierce on the Emmy award winning show M*A*S*H which aired in the 1970’s and early 80’s.

Despite Alda’s many successes, his selection as this year’s commencement speaker may have come as a surprise to many, especially this year’s graduating class. Alda was not a high choice on their list of potential speakers and was not selected in the usual way.

Each year, senior class presidents use polls to get an idea of what speakers the seniors would like to hear. In the past, speakers have included politicians, artists, writers and scientists.

A committee comprised of faculty, a graduate student and undergraduates coordinates the senior class speaker selection. The undergraduate representatives are the senior class presidents (Dinkar Gupta and Tony Sturgeon, ’02) and the Chair of the Graduate Student Council (GSC), Jose Mumbro, represents the graduate students. The faculty members consist of the Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations, Jerry Nunally; Vice President of Institute Relations, Robert O’Rourke and the Marshall for the commencement ceremonies, Dr. Kim Border.

The committee compares all of the potential speakers, a priority list is set up, and the non-student members of the selection committee try to contact the potential speakers in order of preference. Because there are usually more undergraduates graduating each year, their choices are given more weight than those of the graduate students. An official invitation is not sent out until there is a confirmed interest from the potential speaker. The next person on the list is not contacted until the previous speaker is deemed not possible.

Recently, on a trip to New York Baltimore contacted Alda, and invited him to speak at the ceremony without the committee’s go-ahead. Unfortunately, neither of the senior class presidents were willing to provide a quote on this important issue.

One of Alda’s career highlights does bring him into light as an appropriate speaker for a graduating class of Techers. In his ninth year as host of the PBS television series, Scientific American Frontiers, Alda shows his interests do include science.

Alida, who will be 66 years old at the time of commencement, attended Fordham University in New York, and as a dedicated feminist, was appointed in 1976 to serve on the national commission for the observance of international women’s year, where he co-chaired the equal rights amendment committee.

Justin Ho (Class of 2002) notes, “There would not have been anybody that the senior class as a whole would have decided on. There was no solidar­ity.” Thus, he looks forward to Alda’s commencement address.

Not all seniors are as hopeful as Justin, however. Senior Ben Lee assumes that “Alda was selected because of his ‘scientific’ credentials as the host of Scientific American’s television series Frontiers.” Lee wishes Alda good luck since “Caltech students are horrible audiences for scientific speakers when they suspect the speaker of knowing less than themselves.”

Past speakers at Caltech’s commencement ceremony include President George Bush, author Ray Bradbury, NBC anchor Tom Brokaw and TV personality Bill Nye “The Science Guy.”

Undergraduates protest administrative decisions

BY CHRIS ELION AND TODD SCHEMANN

On December 12th, the undergraduates of Caltech took a break from their finals and gathered together for a common cause. Over 200 students assembled on the Olive Walk as a show of solidarity and to express their opinions regarding issues that have a major impact on student life. Topics discussed included health insurance, student parking, residence life issues, fire policy, and the Ricketts Fire Pit.

Sophomore Tom Fletcher began the rally with an introductory speech and then handed the floor over to students. Several members of the audience spoke during the open-mike session, sharing personal opinions regarding a variety of issues. Some students raised concerns about medical health care costs and privacy issues under possible future Caltech insurance plans. Others discussed the recent recommendations published by the Task Force for Undergraduate Residence Life, many expressing their views that certain proposed changes would cause more harm than good. A number of students also shared anecdotes about living under the current housing system and spoke about the benefits of Rotation and house traditions.

After the speeches, rally organizers provided banners for students to sign and make comments. These banners will be soon be on display in the Parsons-Gates building. Students interested in learning more about the rally and viewing the banner comments can go to http://skysuttle.caltech.edu/protest/.

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PARtY

Mon. Jan. 21:
No classes! :)
Brennen stepping down as Vice-President

BY JON FOSTER

The first time most Caltech students will see the name Chris Brennen is on The Dean Bulletin. Shortly after his “Calm” Bench that sits between Ricketts and Fleming and used to be the site of ASCIT donuts. The bench is now 30 years old. In honor of Dr. Brennen’s term as Dean of Students, “Thank-you Chris” reads the note on the bench signed by “The Houses & ASCIT.”

On January 8th, a message from President Baltimore to the Caltech community revealed that Dr. Brennen will be stepping down as Vice President for Student Affairs at the end of the month for personal reasons. He will, however, continue his teaching and research. Dr. Brennen first came to Caltech in 1969 as a Research Fellow. In a few years, he became an associate professor of Mechanical Engineer- ing. After becoming a full professor in 1980, Dr. Brennen served numerous positions which were important to Caltech and especially its undergraduate programs. Master of Student Houses from 1983-1987, Dean of Students from 1988-1992, Executive Officer of Mechanical Engineering from 1993-1998, and Vice-President of Student Affairs from 1998-2002. Despite this busy schedule, Dr. Brennen also served as the chair of numerous faculty committees and was a member of even more. Undergraduate graduation requirements, minority admissions, student housing, student health, and undergraduate research were just some of the areas in which Dr. Brennen’s participation touched students’ lives at Caltech.

A search committee is being formed to find a new Vice President and President Baltimore has promised to keep the Caltech community apprised of the details of that search. In the interim, Baltimore asked Professor Gary Landen, who served as Vice-President directly before Dr. Brennen, to fill the role of acting Vice President. Tony Sturgeon, who had an opportunity to work with Dr. Brennen as a member of student government, said, “Chris is incredibly kind and respectful and very understanding. Just an incredibly sweet guy.” There are many students on campus who will join with Caltech in expressing “sincere appreciation to Chris for his spirited and passionate dedication to the welfare of Caltech’s students.”

Caltech biologists invent newer, better method for making transgenic animals

Nobel Prize-winning research on the genetic mechanisms of viruses 30 years ago is central to the new technique. “This technique is much easier and more efficient than the procedure now commonly in use, and the results suggest that it can be used to generate other transgenic animal species.”

The technique exploits features of HIV-like viruses known as lentiviruses, which can infect both dividing and non-dividing cells, as gene delivery vehicles. Unlike HIV, the lentivirus is rendered incapable of causing AIDS. The lentivirus carries new genes into the cell’s existing genome. In this case, newly fertilized mouse eggs were engineered to carry the green fluorescent protein (GFP) derived from jellyfish.

Baltimore and his team developed two ways of introducing the lentivirus into cells: micro-injection of virus under the layer that protects recently fertilized eggs, or incubation of demembranated fertilized eggs in a concentrated solution of the virus. The latter method is easier, although less efficient. The transgenic mice, once they are born, carry a protein marker in all body tissues that makes them glow green under a fluorescent light. This trait is genetic because the trait is a permanent feature of the animal’s genome, and thus is carried through lifetime and is inheritable by offspring. The term “transgene” refers to the fact that the new gene has been transferred. Transgenes hold promise to biotechnology and experimental biology because the techniques can be used to “engineer” new, desirable traits in plants and animals, provided the trait can be identified and localized in another organism’s genome. A transgenic cow, for example, might be engineered to produce milk containing therapeutic human proteins, or a transgenic chicken might produce eggs low in cholesterol.

In experimental biology, transgenics are valuable laboratory animals for fundamental research. A cat with an altered virus might return to the body of the animal. The Tech? All contributions should include your name and phone number and the intended date of publication.

Bills Piling Up?

Enjoy fine art close to home at the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena on Saturday afternoon, Jan 26. Transportation is provided; admission is free for students. Contact dwo@its for more information.

Did you know?

The Y ExComm is composed of undergraduates and graduate students responsible for planning and implementing the Y’s programs. New ExComm members are elected by current members, but anyone interested in being involved or bringing a program idea to the Y is welcome to talk! The Y ExComm meets every Monday at noon in the Y Houses & Winter Calling! For Wed. Feb. 6. https://oregonlive.com/events/guides/2020-02-06-oregon-live-events-guide.html

The California Tech

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JANUARY 7, 2002

Present: BoD; newly appointed VP Katharina Kohler - Ayers Marcus; Guests: Jon Dama & Rob Christy, two members of the Donut Development Crew; special cameo appearance by平整 the floor with the donut development crew.

First meeting of our last term called to order at 4:10 pm.

Guests

The DVD library. The DVD library has not been restored to fully-functioning mode, which has been the result of some sluggishness in finding a secure location that will not witness the theft that occurred last school year. Sarah Cooke departed for a month-long geo-geology field trip, thus vacating her position and leaving the task in the hands of the Donut Development Crew. Jon Dama believes that an electronic self-locking device can be fabricated for the cabinet and of the fact that the burglar entered through an open window, grates should be placed on the outside of the windows that would still allow the network cable to pass through, but prevent entry of kleptomaniacs. An announcement will appear in the Tech upon restoration of the DVD library. And in the meantime, Joe Jewell will go about purchasing more movies.

General Meeting

A new VP The ASCIT BoD welcomes Katharina Kohler, who will be serving as BoC Chair until the new elections. Katharina was appointed by the Excom shortly after Joe resigned to embark on a term at Cambridge.

Student Faculty Conference and Housing Task Force report. Discussion concerning the recommendations made by the Task Force on Residential Life Initiatives (http://donut.caltech.edu/ vote/finalreport.pdf) will be added to the agenda of the Student-Faculty Conference Quality of Life Outside the Classroom Committee. As under-graduate selection to the committee is rapidly approaching, the BoD reached a consensus on the picking of the members that had previously served on the Housing Task Force. We are looking for an infusion of new ideas and dialogue concerning the proposals, and it would be helpful to have a member of the Task Force on the student-Faculty Quality of Life Outside the Classroom Committee to assist in communications that may arise between the report and students. The BoD decided to allow the ASCIT Finances Committee to re-consider the Core Curriculum Commit-tee, as it pertains exclusively to academic matters. Student appointment to the remaining committee will be made by the BoD, and students will be selected to serve on the committee based on their e-mail sub-missions. Last month the members of the Student-Faculty Conference committees, minutes of the meetings will be placed online. Undergraduates will also be welcome to place their opinions as posts on online bulletin boards. CRC final report. Before the end of our term, Marley Dill acted as the business manager, and the little t bonus and this duty.

A second meeting for the week was proposed to discuss the selection of a committee to appoint the CRC Chair, with input from Aaron Robison, the current CRC Chair, and Dave Gusk in, the current BoC secretary.

ASCIT van. A scrapyard is offering to pay $125 for the van - a rather paltry amount, but with possible back-registration fees, the van may not be worth much more if we were to find a buyer or sell it as a functional automobile.

E-mailing lists. The undergraduate body has been receiving mass e-mails more frequently, with the likely result of many deleted e-mails. In order to reduce spamming, the BoD discussed the need that the Donut team develop an online interface where students can remove themselves from e-mailing lists that will be used by different on-campus organizations, i.e. Res Life, the Study Abroad Office etc. The eventual goal is to target mass e-mails only to interested students. While an other option is for students to opt-in, that is, for students to take the time to add themselves to different lists, there is a worry that students may procrastinateloge on to Donut and miss some im-portant e-mails that they would find interesting. More updates on the progress of this system forthcoming.

Dr. Chris Brennen. The BoD extends its gratitude to Dr. Chris Brennen for his many years of dedication on behalf of students as the Vice President for Student Affairs. We wish him a speedy retirement in assuming his post as Professor of Mechanical En-gineering.

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm, followed by a clean-up meeting on Wednesday. Evidently, Justin

JANUARY 9, 2002

Present: BoD; Guest: Dave Gusk in, BoC Secretary. Meeting called to order at 9:00 pm. Guests

Dave's primary reason for attending this BoD meeting was to participate in discussions concerning formalization of selecting CRC representatives and the election of the CRC under-graduate co-chairman. He also came to request the little t bonus and to remark on an unfortunate incident that occurred when Erik Dill acted as the business manager.

The little t did not generate enough advertising revenue to cover its costs, and consequently Dave and Nate Austin had to pay $400 out of their own pockets to cover the cost. Dave requested $400 for covering their expenses, shared equally between Nate and himself, and $100 each to Todd and himself for completing the 2001 little t. Several houses did not request multi-house funding during our term, there was a surplus in the social budget, so that could cover the request.

Attempts to reach Aaron Robison, the current CRC Chair, for input on writing proposed Bylaws to formally establish the CRC as a governing body were unsuccessful.

General Meeting

ASCIT Finances. Student Affairs has decided to do the ASCIT accounting for no charge out of kindness, meaning that the ASCIT earnings mark a side- line to handle our financial affairs, which can be siphoned to a different function in the ASCIT Budget for the next BoD. Student government organizations at other schools, those that are independent of the academic institution, often have finances and tax-paperwork completed by a department in the academic institution. ASCIT is very grateful to Student Affairs for stepping forward to perform this duty. The payroll will also be integrated into their accounting system, so that salaries will be paid through a new ASCIT Caltech account, rather than checks from directly. The BoD will make recommendations to our successors for ideas on how to spend the extra money. Most of the BoD members agree that club funding should be greatly increased.

DVD Library. The BoD wishes a speedy restoration of the DVD library, to be accomplished by the Donut development team. The Web guys have requested a barcode scanner, in addition to someone with woodwork experience to help in crafting the electronic lock. Money will also be devoted to the movie budget and put towards the purchase of a new computer for the DVD library interface and locking. Within the DVD library, there are currently 130 titles without cases and covers. Joe Jewell's frosty-com is enlisted to make the DVDs more attractive and identifiable. With regards to the purchase of new titles to add to the collection, it is unsure whether we should obtain blockbusters which are relatively ubiquitous or focus on titles that wouldn't be easy to find at the neighborhood Blockbuster. Student input is requested, and the domain website will be summoned to allow students to enter titles or select genres that they would be interested in seeing in the DVD library.

ASCIT van. Martha-Helene told us that a guy, whose name was not disclosed, offered to sell the van for us. On inspection of the stickers on the van, it would appear that registration had not been paid since 1996, although Martha-Helene remembers from the previous administration that the old UDAL did take care of the fee. Todd is assigned to go to the DMV on Friday to determine if registration has been paid in the recent past and if updates are necessary.

CRC Chairman Election. To recognize the CRC undergraduate co-chair (co-chairing with a member of the faculty), the BoD is writing a new Bylaw, to be ratified or rejected in a vote at the end of their need of the position of the discussions were discussed, including whether or not the...
ASCIT: Chair VP for holding the CRC Chair voted in the election. Arguments for holding the CRC Chair voting in either election were given. Since the CRC Chair and BoC Chair roles in maintaining rules of conduct are similar, it seemed appropriate to group these two elections together. However, part of the reason that the BoC Chair and President elections are separated from election of the remaining ASCIT positions is that candidates would choose whether or not to run based on the people elected to President and VP. The BoC secretary is also an elected position, and interested candidates may base their decision to run on who was elected, as many of the members of the BoD may choose to run based on their assessment of working with the President-elect. The CRC representatives are not elected positions, and therefore, there is no conflict in moving the CRC vote to the second election. In addition, placing the CRC election in the second round would allow candidates running for the position of the BoC chair that did not win the election to run for the position of the CRC chair. Placing the CRC chair and BoC chair elections in the same round would force qualified candidates to choose either one but not both and possibly eliminate good candidates from one of the positions. After much discussion, it was agreed that the CRC chair would be elected by all undergraduates in the second round of elections and that the elected CRC chair can not also serve as the BoC chair and vice versa. A debate also ensued over whether or not to include the CRC chair as a position in the ASCIT BoD. Since the CRC is a student-faculty committee, the CRC chair acts as a liaison between ASCIT and faculty and it would be in keeping with the mission of ASCIT to use the position as a representative for faculty interactions. Based on the experiences of the CRC chair in overseeing cases concerning Institute policies, this student could also bring additional insight into BoD discussions. However, as the CRC chair deals primarily with Institute policies and not the Honor Code per se, which is exclusively student-run, the argument was made that the position of the CRC chair was slightly separated from those of the ASCIT BoD. Namely, each of the positions serves ASCIT in a particular way that an undergraduate assessing Institute policies would not. The CRC frequently oversees cases in which the Honor Code is not a factor and the interaction concerns Institute policies and would therefore be slightly abstracted from the other positions. Ted also added that the event that the BoD decided to do something in violation of the Institute policies, while in keeping with the Honor Code, the CRC chairman, in representing Institute policies to some extent, would be in conflict. At the end of the discussion, the BoD decided to maintain the CRC chair position as a separate entity and observe that including the CRC chair election with BoD elections would be performed for convenience. The BoD also added that the Bylaw should include provisions for holding a new election if the CRC Chair vacates the office. The CRC would be given the freedom to institute its separate proceedings to police itself.

Appointment of CRC representatives. Martha-Heleene presented a proposal for forming a committee to appoint students as CRC representatives following the election of a new CRC chairman. In her proposal, the committee would be composed of the newly elected ASCIT president, IHC Chairman, BoC Chair, the outgoing CRC Chairman, and an outgoing CRC representative, chosen either randomly or by consensus by the CRC. This 5-person panel excluded the incoming CRC chairman as a checks-and-balances measure. Marcus raised the claim that the IHC Chairman did not expressly represent the opinions of the IHC, adding that the position was elected by the entire undergraduate community and not by the House Presidents. While the position required coordination of ASCIT with IHC, a representative chosen by the IHC and not necessarily the IHC Chairman may be more appropriate for serving on the committee. Another concern was that the 5-member panel may be too small, and a proposal was made to increase the number to 9 members, with 4 selected members of the ASCIT BoD, 4 selected members of the CRC, and the outgoing CRC Chairman acting as the facilitator for the meeting. The delegates from the BoD and the IHC to the appointing committee would be selected based on consensus of the respective bodies and would work with the outgoing CRC Chairman as a single elective body.

Publications business. The BoD voted unanimously to reimburse Dave and Nate $200 each for out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the publication of the 2000 little t. In light of problems with publication, Ted proposed some form of publication reform, to prevent negligent students from being appointed to the posts in the future. The publications suffer from lack of interest and lack of incentives, and there is rarely more than a single candidate applying for each of the positions of editor or business manager for the Big T and little t. If the salaries of the positions are raised, there may be more qualified students willing to put in the time to see publication through. Increasing the salary would also give us more control over their work. The BoD’s final decision of the night was to give $99 each, as opposed to $100, to Dave and Todd for their work on the little t. Meeting adjourned at 11:32 pm.

Evidently, Justin

ASCIT & News

Farley speaks at Caltech

by Kevin Bartz

You may have heard in the Stop the War rally at Oxford. You may have read his anti-war commentary in The Guardian or The Nashville Daily. You may know him as the Green Party alternative to House Rep. Bob Clement—who he calls “Bob Icement”—in Tennessee. Or, you may know him as the otherwise humble mathematician who cracked a lattice puzzle nearly as old as himself.

Dr. Jonathan Farley is a man on a mission. At home and abroad, the lattice theorist turned politician is out to diffuse what he calls “the madness of King George”: America’s pro-war contingent. He’s the left wing’s rock of ages, a vocal factor in President Bush’s 15% approval rating—and proud of it.

“The second in the Caltech Y’s Social Activism Speakers Series, the Green Party pundit hailed by Ebony as “Leader of the Future” took the stage Friday night in Avery Library, sharing his outlook on “How to Fight the Right and Win” in a public discussion with students and faculty.

One of only four to receive this year’s Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Award, Upscale magazine’s 31-year-old “math genius” hasn’t turned his back on academia. But even as he spends his sabbatical year researching at Oxford University, the Vanderbilt professor’s convictions are firmer than ever—to the tune of a long-distance Congressional campaign aimed at stamping out “two old white men with identical views.”

“My measure of success is not getting elected but rather how much I can focus attention on these issues,” Farley explained. Presently, he’s working to stem the tide of support for America’s war in Afghanistan, which he dubbed a racially motivated attack by Republicans who “like to bomb people [and] try out new weapons.”

“This so-called ‘War on Terror’ doesn’t make any sense,” he asserted. “Should the US be battling other countries on terrorism when it’s supporting terrorism itself?”

Farley cited an alleged wave of anti-American sentiment in Oxford, where nearly half the student population voted to condemn the US bombings. “Coming out of Nashville and England, he has a different perspective on the war,” said Kaisa Tuipale, a leader in Caltech’s Peaceful Justice Coalition (PJC).

Instead of al-Qaida, Farley would redirect Americans’ battle cry to “the real evils: the KKK, the LAPD and the FBI.” Pointing to a still-standing Nashville monument to a Confederate cavalryman as evidence of persisting racism, Farley first pushed for African-American reparations before even Jesse Jackson took up the issue. In the backdrop of such injustice, “the ‘War on Terror’ is a farce,” he said.

Farley sets an example as an academic politician—or perhaps a political academic. And it’s the fusion of the two that sets him apart, at least in the eyes of Math Postdoctoral Scholar Ed Goins, who spearheaded the effort to bring Farley to Caltech.

“The goal was to have Caltech see that a scientist could actually have a political standpoint,” he explained. “Even though he’s here as a mathematician, he could also use the chance to share his political views in a laid-back atmosphere.”
The Ticket Stub
by Juliun Wang

As much as I regret to admit it, I am a film snob. By that I mean that in general, I hate mainstream movies. By mainstream movies I mean the movies that play at every movie theatre in Pasadena except Laemmle and Academy 6. Mainstream movies are like junk food. They have pretty packaging, and sometimes consume them additively.

As an antidote, two movies I saw over the break are perfect examples of great "arthouse" movies that surprise and enlighten while they entertain. Both decidedly un-Hollywood, Lantana and Gosford Park (both still playing at the Laemmle), excel based on old-fashioned elements like great scripts, directing as they follow twisting plots of love, murder, and intrigue. Where mainstream movies are like junk food, these are nourishing, intelligent, sensitive, and real.

The women in the film span class boundaries, ranging from well-to-do psychoanalyst Valerie (Barbara Hershey) to working-class nurse Paula (Daniella Farinacci). They are sensual and vivacious but they are also marked with the flaws and scars that go along with wisdom.

Lantana is a film that celebrates women—not the glossy paper dolls that populate most Hollywood movies. Women are much more than objects, and they are smart, driven, and in control. The film is set in contemporary Sydney, Australia. While the city is so sophisticated, the characters could not be more distinctly rural. The women seem to inhabit a city that barely manages to control the wilderness that constantly threatens to invade its edges—an apt metaphor for the emotional turmoil that simmers beneath their composed veneers. In the opening sequence, the camera slowly—almost lovingly—pans across the body of a woman lying face-down on the ground beneath thorny branches of lantana, the Australian shrub of the film's title. The same affectionate light is cast upon all of the film's women, and the film dares us to love them as we wonder which will end up dead.

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The next scene depicts British cop Leon (Anthony LaPaglia) cheating on his wife Sonja (Kerry Armstrong) with wily seductress Jane (Rachel Blake). While their love-making is heated, it is fueled by desperation instead of passion. Both Leon and Jane use the affair to fill the voids left by their fixed, mundane lives. But even in this initial scene every-present reminders of their estranged spouses sour the thrill of illicit romance.

Although Sonja is transparent to acknowledge it at first, her suspicion of Leon's infidelity eventually drives her to see therapist Valerie. Although she maintains professional distance towards her clients, Valerie herself is haunted by their tales of infidelity and deceit as she struggles to rebuild her marriage to aloof academic John (Geoffrey Rush) after the death of their daughter.

In an effort to re-spark their dimming marriage, Sonja persuades Leon into joining a salsa-dancing class. Both characters do discover passion through the class, but unfortunately, not with each other. Leon meets Jane, a flirtatious fellow dance student, and Sonja rediscovers her latent sexuality through dancing itself. The tension is palpable in a scene in which Leon walks in late to the class only to find Sonja and Jane dancing together because of the shortage of male partners. Leon's guilt reaches a fever pitch when Sonja introduces him to her new acquaintance, and his eyes dart nervously as his feet shuffle chaotically. Their fates spiral toward collision to the sultry salsa rhythms.

Like other romantic comedies such as Serendipity, the characters in Lantana are improbably linked by chance. Although the murder mystery underlies this film as an engaging and unconventional way (I guarantee you'll never guess who did it), it is but a vehicle for the film to explore its wonderful complex characters.

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As an antidote, two movies I saw over the break are perfect examples of great "arthouse" movies that surprise and enlighten while they entertain. Both decidedly un-Hollywood, Lantana and Gosford Park (both still playing at the Laemmle), excel based on old-fashioned elements like great scripts, directing as they follow twisting plots of love, murder, and intrigue. Where mainstream movies are like junk food, these are nourishing, intelligent, sensitive, and real.

The women in the film span class boundaries, ranging from well-to-do psychoanalyst Valerie (Barbara Hershey) to working-class nurse Paula (Daniella Farinacci). They are sensual and vivacious but they are also marked with the flaws and scars that go along with wisdom.

Lantana is a film that celebrates women—not the glossy paper dolls that populate most Hollywood movies. Women are much more than objects, and they are smart, driven, and in control. The film is set in contemporary Sydney, Australia. While the city is so sophisticated, the characters could not be more distinctly rural. The women seem to inhabit a city that barely manages to control the wilderness that constantly threatens to invade its edges—an apt metaphor for the emotional turmoil that simmers beneath their composed veneers. In the opening sequence, the camera slowly—almost lovingly—pans across the body of a woman lying face-down on the ground beneath thorny branches of lantana, the Australian shrub of the film's title. The same affectionate light is cast upon all of the film's women, and the film dares us to love them as we wonder which will end up dead.

The next scene depicts British cop Leon (Anthony LaPaglia) cheating on his wife Sonja (Kerry Armstrong) with wily seductress Jane (Rachel Blake). While their love-making is heated, it is fueled by desperation instead of passion. Both Leon and Jane use the affair to fill the voids left by their fixed, mundane lives. But even in this initial scene every-present reminders of their estranged spouses sour the thrill of illicit romance.

Although Sonja is transparent to acknowledge it at first, her suspicion of Leon's infidelity eventually drives her to see therapist Valerie. Although she maintains professional distance towards her clients, Valerie herself is haunted by their tales of infidelity and deceit as she struggles to rebuild her marriage to aloof academic John (Geoffrey Rush) after the death of their daughter.

In an effort to re-spark their dimming marriage, Sonja persuades Leon into joining a salsa-dancing class. Both characters do discover passion through the class, but unfortunately, not with each other. Leon meets Jane, a flirtatious fellow dance student, and Sonja rediscovers her latent sexuality through dancing itself. The tension is palpable in a scene in which Leon walks in late to the class only to find Sonja and Jane dancing together because of the shortage of male partners. Leon's guilt reaches a fever pitch when Sonja introduces him to her new acquaintance, and his eyes dart nervously as his feet shuffle chaotically. Their fates spiral toward collision to the sultry salsa rhythms.
**APRISO Information Session**

**When:** January 22, 2002, at 5:00PM  
**Where:** 3rd Floor Conference Room in the Center for Student Services  
Apriso is the world's premier provider of plant and warehouse automation solutions for fortune 1000 companies. We are headquartered in Long Beach, California with an international presence in Poland, France, Germany, UK, Australia, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, and Singapore. Visit our website at www.apriso.com. All Computer Science/Engineering majors are encouraged to attend.

**APRISO On-Campus Recruiting**

**When:** January 24, 2002  
**Where:** 3rd Floor Career Services in the Center for Student Services  
We are looking for Software Developers to work in our Long Beach headquarters. All Computer Science/Engineering majors and candidates from other degrees with proven, exceptional programming skills are encouraged to attend.
Dean's Corner

Work hard, work smart

by Jean-Paul Revel

Professional overload is said to be a curse of the modern university.

Overloads are common in the academic schedules of professors, particularly in departments like physics and computer science at Caltech. These overloads can have a significant impact on the lives of professors and students alike.

Jean-Paul Revel

Dean of Students

The California Tech
January 14, 2001
The Caltech Flying Team is looking for new members! Caltech is a member of the Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Flying Association and competes in the annual SAFECODON flying competition in Feb-
uary. The team hosts competitions, benefits scholarships, and many others. You do not
need to be a pilot nor a member of the Caltech Aero Corporation to participate!

For more information about joining the flying team or attending practices, contact Elaine Ou (ou@caltech.edu) or
Gail Wurman (gailw@caltech.edu) or visit the Aero Corporation web page: http://
www.xls.caltech.edu/aercal.

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 Bing
wb@caltech.edu.

The Glamour Magazine’s 2002 Top Ten College Women Competition has begun. The competition
is open to all full-time undergraduate students. The competition, which was announced by
Caltech President David Lee, is open to 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
Supernova Experiment (BATSE) onboard the NASA Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory. The major
scientific objective is to study the properties of gamma-ray emissions from cosmic sources including black holes and active galactic nuclei 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). Simple tasks would be on a part-time work-study basis during the school year and
possibly up to 40 hours per week during the summer. If interested, or for further information, contact
Dr. James C. Jing. 169-327. (818) 354-2819. james.c.jing@nasa.gov.

As a result of Irvine Foundation funding, Caltech has a limited amount of money available for diver-
sity programs related to underrepresented minorities and women for academic year 2001-2002. Pro-
posals from students, faculty, and staff are welcome and should clearly address how the program
relates to issues of diversity. Proposals should also include a description of the event, including
purposes, funding, and budget. Application forms can be picked up at the Caltech Y. An
Institute committee will review the applications and make the awards. For more information, contact
Athens Castro (athena@caltech.edu) or Greg Fletcher (gregf@caltech.edu) at ext. 6161.

Student Programming Board. The Caltech Women’s Center invites you to be part of the new and
exciting programs that are in place for this year. Our new staff is interested in working with you to develop
programs and services that meet your needs and interests. Get involved now! Take on a leadership role in
deciding how the Women’s Center addresses the issues you are interested in. Be a part of designing
and implementing programs and events focused on women’s and gender issues.
Undergraduate and graduate students, women and men encouraged to get involved. Contact the Women’s Center at ext. 3221 or stop by our office in room 265 of the Center for Student Services.

Athleteen Tennis Ladder. All Athleteen 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 from a few ladder ranks of
one another. Each of your trophies will be awarded. Signups welcome any time. For more infor-
mation, contact Jane Wider at (818) 952-0941 or Rich Dekney at (626) 395-6798 or email to
athleteen@caltech.edu.

Are you interested in discussing life at Caltech and in the United States? If so, the Intercol­
cultural Dialogue Group is sponsored by the Caltech Office for Students. The group meets on Monday from 12-1 pm in the Women’s Center Lounge. (256-28, 2nd floor of the Center for Student Services). This group is facili-
tated by the Office for International Programs and is open to all Caltech stu-
dents, graduate and undergraduate. American and international. Drop-in welcome. Since lunch is
provided, please contact hm at mh@caltech.edu if you plan on attending one of the meetings, this
will ensure that we have enough food!

The Caltech Center for Student Services 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 as a tutor. If you are an upperclassman and would like to be a Deans’ tutor please stop by the
Deans’ Office to see Sandra located in 102 Parsons-Gates.

Community Service Opportunities Abound! The Caltech Y offers students and staff a variety of ways to participate in community service. Oppor-
tunities include working with Habitat for Humanity, Union Station Homeless Shelter, math tutoring
(on or off campus), reading tutoring, and working at local hospitals. One-time community service
events are planned each term and opportunities for service on a regular basis exist. Undergraduates
with federal work-study can receive $15/hr for their community service work. To be added to
the community service interest email list, or for more information about the Community Service Program, please contact Greg Fletcher at gregf@caltech.edu. ext. 6161. Or, stop by the Caltech Y in the Center
for Student Services (formerly Rock House) for a complete listing of opportunities.

CIT Guitar Classes for winter quarter will meet on Tuesdays in SAC Room 1, starting January 15 as
follows: Beginnng Guitar Class– 4:30-5:30 pm, Intermediate Guitar Class– 3:00–
4:00 pm, Advanced Guitar Class– 5:30–6:30 pm. Classical and flamenco reper-
tories are explored alongside techniques transfer to other styles of guitar. The Beginning
Class includes a jazz/folk chord system. Classes are free to Caltech students and
other Caltech community members (space permitting). Undergrads can receive
credit for this class. There will be no fee! Denny Davis. The technical background
in performance, teaching and recording (two of his CDs are available in the Bookstore).
Mr. Dennis can be reached at ext. 2923 or (323) 465-0881 or by email at dennis@caltech.edu.

The Student Phone Program is hiring for winter term! Student callers are needed to contact alumni
nationwide. Sharpen your interviewing, negotiation, and networking skills while working in a fun
and rewarding environment. Evening and weekend hours available! Paid training provided before you begin
calling. Please apply by January 16. Indochine in Outbay Hall Room 309 is
encouraged to apply, but must obtain approval from Dean to work. For additional information please contact Lucie at
laperen@caltech.edu or call ext. 6232.

Long-Bay-Trann Discussion Group
Whether you are out and proud, exploring your sexual identity, coming out, or anywhere in-between.
we invite you and budget. Application forms can be picked up at the Caltech Y. An
Institute committee will review the applications and make the awards. For more information, contact
Caltech Student Pride Alliance (CSPA) at http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/cspal.

The SEG Foundation is pleased to provide information on scholarships awarded to students majoring
in geophysics or a related science, directed toward a career in exploration geophysics. Applica-
tions and additional information is available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline for submittal of applications and all supporting documents for academic year 2002, is March 1, 2002. Applications may be
sent by fax to 918-497-5560. However, supporting documents (reference letters and grade transcripts)
must be original documents. SEG Scholarships range from $520 to $12,000 per year with a maximum of
awards of $20,000 per year. The SEG Scholarship Committee awards $250, 500 in scholarships for the 2001 academic year.
The Evalee C. Schwarz Charitable Trust for Education is a trust created to give $10,000 interest-free loans to
deserving graduate and undergraduate students who meet the following criteria:
-be an American citizen, enrolled at an accredited institution,
-be a resident of the state of which you are attending,
-clearly demonstrated excellence in academic achievement as evidenced by a strong GPA, and
-outstanding performance on national standardized undergraduate and/or post doctoral admissions. Tests,
-you must otherwise qualify for financial aid in the form of government grants.
At present, this Trust is not accepting applications from foreign students, or from students seeking to complete a law degree. It is not the policy of this Trust to accept applications for thesis, dissertation, internships, residencies, or fellowships. Regarding repayment, this Trust offers a 12-month “grace period” following graduation to all students. Repayment of the loans shall begin one year following graduation (or in the case of part-time
employment with an hourly paycheck) good faith pursuit of his or her scholastic career prior to graduation. The Trust determines the repayment schedule and time frame.
Please contact Ed Robinson at 410-807-9600 or email info@evales.org or visit the website http://
www.evales.org for more information.

2002-2003 National Academy Scholarships. For 2002-2003, new scholarships of $2,500 each will
be awarded to eligible students majoring in nuclear engineering, power generation health physics,
electrical or mechanical engineering, or chemical engineering with nuclear or power options. Please
note that electrical and mechanical engineering majors without nuclear or power options are eligible
disciplines. For additional information on nuclear industry career opportunities and the National
Academy Educational Assistance Program, visit www.nai.org/"Carners & Education". Brochures and
applications are available at the Financial Aid Office, 355 S. Hollinck, 2nd floor. Complete applica-
tion packages must be postmarked by February 1, 2002.

Introducing the Bank of America Financial Aid Sweepstakes! Yes, we’re giving away scholarships.
One of them could be yours! To enter, you must have a 3.0 GPA. For a chance to win, complete the
application and all supporting documents for academic year 2001-2002. Prospective
students and staff are welcome as well. And refreshments are
served! For more information call ext. 8331. To find out about LBGT events on campus, please visit
the Caltech Students’ Union (CSU) website.

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

Upcoming Events

WEST (Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology) will be holding several events this term.
While the Lunch with Faculty Events are designed for female students and require an
RSVP to westclub@caltech.edu, the Open Forum Events are open to all the Caltech community (males and
females, students, faculty, and staff) and do not require an RSVP.
Jan. 17 Open Forum, 7-8pm, Beckman Institute Auditorium
Speaker: Dr. Miriam Feldblum, Special Assistant to President Baltimore and Faculty Associate in
The Division Humanities and Social Sciences
Topic: Who’s Tracking the Progress? Women Students and Faculty at Caltech
Jan. 22 Lunch With Faculty, Myths and Stereotypes in Carriage House
Speakers: Prof. Melany Hunt and Linda Jacobson
Feb. 11 Open Forum, 7-8pm, Beckman Institute Auditorium
Speaker: Prof. Bob Miner, Bragg-Messiah, Joel Ledbetter, and Eric Schuman
Title: A Day in the Life of a Caltech Professor
For more information on WEST, please visit westclub@caltech.edu.