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Armet went on to stress the need for more undergraduates in the club, explaining that it was a shame that the student participa­tion was so low, especially because Caltech has such good fly­ing.

"There are 150 members in the Caltech-JPL flying club, most of them being staff, faculty and graduate students. It would be great to have more undergradu­ate students because one can fly airplanes for cheap! Caltech owns three to four planes and is leasing two more. Hence, it currently has six different planes that are available at affordable prices. To top it all, students get discounts!"

With only two students participat­ing in the face of other col­leges who had teams with tens of students, Caltech still man­aged to take part in some of the events. Both Armet and Ou are comparative­ly inexperienced fliers but they still took part and emerged fairly successful in the aero­mentioned events.

The SCANE (Simulated Computational Aircraft Naviga­tion Event) and IFR (Instrument Flight Rules Simulator Event) were particularly tough because one has to experimentally cal­culate variables such as the amount of fuel and time required to land suddenly in light of particular circumstances. Moreover, since the weather was foggy, events like the pro­jection landing were not very easy, said Armet, reminding about some of the past flying contests in which he and Ou took part.

He emphasized that he en­joyed the trip fully despite lim­ited preparation. In contrast to the thousands of dedicated hours often spent practicing by other top fliers, Armet tagged only 100 hours to his name. "Flying up in the air is pretty and especially when it is dark," he explained. "I think that more people should make use of this facility. I have flown to places just to have coffee because the plane rentals are so cheap!"

The other participant, Elaine Ou, on a similar note, com­mented on the lack of enthusi­asm on the part of undergradu­ates. "It was a lot of fun," she ex­plained. "The Caltech Flying team didn't participate last year but they did the year before that, and a lot more people went, so they actually did pretty well and won some events." Her closing comments focused on the club's future. "It's a shame that more people don't participate, because the Caltech/JPL flying club subsis­t on all the training/flying, and we get a lot of funding, so it's practically free. So a lot of people are missing out on this opportunity!"

## Highlights

- **Weekend Recap:**
  - **Friday Night in Ruckles:**
    - **The California Tech**
    - **Volume III, Number 17**
    - **Pasadena, California**
    - **February 25, 2002**

- **Inside the Tech**
  - **The Usual**
    - **Features:**
      - ASCIT Minutes: 3
      - Election Results: 5
      - Y News: 4
      - Comics: 6
      - Features: 5
      - The Dean's Corner: 7
      - HIC, CRG Sign-ups: 5

- **Outside World**
  - **By William Fong**

- **Caltech Flying Club Takes to Safer Skies**
  - **By Team Parkview Beal**

- **Heightened Turnout Marks Record Election**
  - **By Jon Foster**

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## Additional Notes

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- **Features**: 5
- **The Dean's Corner**: 7
- **HIC, CRG Sign-ups**: 5

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**For more details, please refer to the PDF file provided.**
Election Results

Director of Academic Affairs

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Round NO 1: Fetter 56, Stewart 48, Wang 59, Other 70, Total 135, Director 12, Total 454

CRC-co-chair

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Round NO 1: Kleeman 69, Kneeland 87, Other 153, Total 398, CRC-co-chair 111, Total 418

BoC Secretary

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Round NO 1: Findley 89, Stamesh 130, Other 160, Total 395, BoC Secretary 16, Total 395

FDAL

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Round NO 1: Lin 75, Vancon 156, Other 154, Total 398, FDAL 13, Total 398

Treasurer

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Round NO 1: Bilal 71, Zhou 110, Other 251, Total 451, Treasurer 19, Total 451

IHC Chair

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Minutes
February 20, 2002
Board of Directors, 2002-2003
Ted Jou, President
Vikram Mittal, Vice President
Joe Jewell, Secretary
Janet Zhou, Treasurer
Marcus Williams, IHC Chairman
Basit Khan, Director for Academic Affairs
Jialan Wang, Director for Social Activities
Neda Asfaram, Upperclass Director-at-Large
Andrea Vascollections, Freshman Director-at-Large
Minutes of the BoD Meeting February 20, 2002
Present:
Old BoD: Martha-Helene, Katharina, Justin, Ayeh, Marcus, Nick, Ted, Todd, Joe.
New BoD: Ted; Joe, Janet, Marcus, Basit, Jialan, Neda, Andrea. (Vikram absent, in Cambridge)

Guests: Jennie Kneeland (CRC Chair), Sarah Cooke (ASCIT Movies), Shane Arney (IHC Ath Man), Merc Chapman.

Meeting called to order at 9:06 p.m. The annual BoD "transition meeting" convenes with introductions all around, led by Ted, and a reminder to attend tomorrow’s installation dinner at the Mosh House. Rumor has it that Tom Mannon will be personally cooking for us. Joe will be sending out an email soon to determine the best meeting time for the new officers.

Guests: Merc picks up club funding, then leaves. Sarah Cooke is welcomed back from her term away for a geology trip, filled in on the progress of the new secure DVD cabinet, and implored to keep the pressure on the web guys and Marcus to finish the setup by the end of the term. Shane informs us that four seniors will be requesting letter jackets this term. The jacket committee of which the Athletic Department covers the first $50. The BoD agrees that we can likely pay for all of the other $40 for each student. In the future, we will be covering all the jackets third term to ensure equal distribution of available funds. Joe points out that it will be up to the BoD following the new BoD to budget this for the first time under the new system.

General Meeting:
Joe requests $200 multimodule funding for the Lloyd/Blacker campus building. He requests that $20 be interhouse funding for Apache (approved, 6-0). Ted informs us that Jon jacket requests that we move the Donut server into the ASCIT office, because the power outages that result in power outages that result in the center building, as cutbacks have forced the elimination of the Donut server. Ted suggests that we have a "transition" meeting convenes at 6-0 vote. Joe wonders what exactly future ULASM aspirations will promise to do in their election statements, now that the van has been budgeted.

Martha-Helene reports that ASCIT received a letter from an alumnus (Tom Fisch) with comments on the recent issues facing the student body. She will forward it to the new BoD soon. The old BoD will be leaving for a month, to be followed by the public and bears voting on the ARC. This is now been budgeted. There will be a "transition" meeting convenes at 6-0 vote. At this point, after a flurry of legislation, both BoD's take a moment to reflect on the idyllic magnanimity that was the Eric Turlle presidency. We brainstorm for a way to follow his shining example in all our actions. With quiet longing for times past, Martha-Helene urges the committee to follow Marcia's lead in the ASCIT bylaws revisions. The committee agrees. We return to regular business and officer reports as the meeting winds down.

Respectfully submitted,
ASCIT Secretary

February 25, 2002

Wanted: Venture Capital Analyst
- engineering undergrad
- 2-4 years work experience in financial/business sector
- submit resume to jack@missionventures.com
Restrictions Only Encourage Underage Drinking

by JULIAN WANG

America is a very curious place. On one hand, it is perhaps the world's most decadent, materialistic, and consumeristic nation. At the same time, our historical Puritanism is very evident in our laws and cultural morals. To most people at Caltech, attitudes like racism, sexism, and intolerance of homosexuals and taboos against sex and alcohol are clearly ludicrous and counterproductive, but they are enduring parts of the larger culture.

In particular, America has had a long history of discomfort with alcohol. After the complete failure of prohibition, the government now limits the prohibition to young people. California law makes it illegal for persons under 21 years of age to drink alcohol as well as for anyone of age to buy or serve alcohol to a person under 21 years old. Although it is sensible, absolute laws such as selling alcohol to very young children, I have yet not heard a good argument against preventing older teenagers from drinking. What is more absurd is that people can buy tobacco, three years earlier than they can buy alcohol, which when used moderately causes few if any negative effects to health, whereas tobacco can have many detrimental health effects. Haven't we learned yet that prohibition is not the answer?

To me, the laws against underage drinking represent the worst kind of policy-making. As we all know, this law is widely broken, and the taboo it creates only encourages minors to drink recklessly. Thus, not only does the law not work, but it actually encourages the irresponsible and dangerous behavior it aims to prevent, while at the same time preventing responsible people from enjoying themselves.

Nowhere are these failures more evident than on college campuses, where the population is split between those over and under 21. The occurrence of underage drinking on college campuses is very well-documented. According to a 2000 survey (http://www.siu.edu/departments/coreenst/public_html/html/), 72% of students reported drinking alcohol within 30 days prior to the survey. This percentage only drops to 69% when applied to underage students.

Knowing these facts, people responsible for the welfare of college students must make tough decisions when dealing with illegal drinking. They must decide whether to directly follow the letter of the law or to take a more reasonable approach that discourages irresponsible drinking and is more lenient toward moderate drinking.

These decisions are much like the ones police officers must face every day when dealing with petty crimes. It is better in the long run to arrest a small-time pot smoker and throw him in jail with hard criminals or to simply give a warning? Is it better to allow moderate, supervised drinking, or to effectively ban all drinking on campus knowing that many problem drinkers would engage in more dangerous private drinking?

For many years Caltech had taken the former approach, but recent changes in enforcement of the alcohol policy have very much leaned toward the latter. While most universities have stricter policies than we do, the circumstances here are also very different. Not only are the students much more responsible and mutually supportive of each other than in the vast majority of other colleges, but they also simply don't drink very much. According to the Princeton Review, Caltech ranks second in the nation in the category "scotch and soda, holding the scotch" for least consumption of hard alcohol, sharing the category almost solely with such religious universities as Brigham Young University in Utah (http://www.review.com/college/rankings/parties.cfm). Perhaps this is the reason that Caltech didn't even have an alcohol policy before 1990.

Recently, however, several houses have had run-ins with the administration concerning alcohol. Several "happy hour"-type events have been shut down, in particular an event held in Ricketts House called Thursday Night Drinking (TND). Of-age people bought and served alcohol to a small group of friends in a room off the Ricketts breezeway. Moreover, the event attracted many people who didn't drink at all and simply came to enjoy the company. The event was not endorsed or sponsored by Ricketts House, and people from several houses regularly attended.

Unlike the professional bar-tenders that are now required for all registered social events, the bartenders at TND have vested interest in making sure people drink responsibly. They could get into very big trouble with administrators for allowing excessive drinking, but more importantly, they are friends. Friends don't need the threat of expulsion to care about each other.

The use of who enjoyed TND have lost a wonderful way to socialize with friends, but what have we gained? Thursday nights have become much quieter in the weeks since TND's demise, but drinking has not stopped. It has just gone underground, continuing in a much less fun and much more dangerous way.

While shutting down events such as TND certainly removes all legal culpability for Caltech in terms of student drinking, moral culpability is another matter altogether. Clearly it is not the fault of any administrator that some students have drinking problems, but it is irresponsible to make decisions that know they would cause people to shift from safer social drinking to more dangerous isolated drinking. While it may be prudent and indeed, necessary, to cover Caltech's legal rear end by making drinking unfeasible for all but the biggest events, prudence and necessity do not make these policies right.

In a sense, administrators are caught in an impasse. The threat of lawsuits and pressure from funding organizations call for tough policies that put legal security and funding before the physical and social welfare of students threatens to undermine all that is good about Caltech. TND and other social events involving alcohol may seem like minor losses, but in a place with so few social events, even fewer of which are worth attending, the losses are devastating. Furthermore, the low incidence of drinking makes harsh policies seem rather gratuitous. For the sake of our safety and spirit, maybe it's time Caltech took a risk.
Learning to Live More Efficiently (Without the Sun)

BY YULIYA RUVINSKAYA

It startled her on her way out from the sub-basement of Moore to grab a quick meal (description dependent on the time of day), which she, a permanent resident of the EES5 lab, can never be certain of. Alarmed by her prolonged absence, her labmates reported her missing to their TA, who shared their concern. It caught him at eight o’clock in the morning, when you were on your way to drop off the long physics set he stayed up all night to do, but his half-closed eyes, a result of lowered metabolism, saved him from the derision. They saw it from the narrow window of the classroom, where it mattered in stealthily, in spite of the artificial lights and thick windows, dead bolted shut to keep it out. Graduate students from two doors down reported a wild thorn of students and singing in strange tongues dancing toward the exit, headed by their professor, a man of most respectable reputation, a Nobel prize laureate, and a father of three. The weather, the sunny, warm, blossom-scented February air with a slight tint of smog filled the campus, wreaking havoc, and if you are not careful, it will get you too. There is a simple and effective measure that you can observe to keep away the insanity—staying out of the outdoors. To observe this precaution, the following methods were found to be the most effective.

One of the ways of keeping temptation at bay is to not be faced with the temptation at all—not being awake during the day light hours. A hefty percentage of undergraduate students are already diligently observing a nocturnal schedule, particularly those with heavy workloads, a strong dislike for board food, and good grades. Since an overwhelming majority of the undergraduate (and probably graduate) students have at least one of the above three, they will find that a transition to a nocturnal schedule will greatly improve their quality of life. Those with lots of classes will find that not going to class will give them more time to do homework, as well as more time to sleep and eat. Those who want to eat or make their own food, will find that supermarket lines are significantly shorter between the hours of midnights and Sun, and restaurants are almost empty at this time. Ralph’s supermarket is conveniently open 24 hours a day, and there are several fast food establishments within reasonable distance (excellent thinking, planners of Pasadena). Owners of good video cards will find that going to a noisy game will be much more entertaining than having to move their screen every few minutes away from the sun. If at first not seeing the sun seems strange to you—persevere. You will likely find peers, whose company you will enjoy, who will support your efforts. And since moonlight is so much prettier than sunlight, anyway, your chances of forming a romantic relationship with one of them will be greatly increased.

If, for some reason you are unable to keep to a nocturnal schedule, the next best damage prevention weapons are computer games. Most teenagers have years of experience with adventure and puzzle games, and will have no trouble finding a game that they like, but for those who have had a limited exposure to the world of virtual reality, it is never too late to start.

Most Windows machines come with Minesweeper and several varieties of Solitaire. These games are portable and generally face and clearly defined rules, making them especially appropriate for beginners. They are often played for just a few minutes, which will keep you clicking for hours, as evidenced by the following conversation, often heard in student dorms. For MacOS owners, there’s Snood, which can be downloaded from the Internet. Snood has a prettier interface and more levels than Minesweeper or Solitaire and is suitable not only for beginners, but also for those who have mastered Solitaire though may not be ready to face the 3-D games. Those, who like to interact with other players will find a variety of MUDs (multi-user dungeons) on the Internet, both text and with graphics, which can make them forget about the existence of the outside world. Players of all levels will find that the sun may try to thwart their efforts to avoid the outside by introducing glare. They can reduce its effects by turning the monitor away from the sun, and sitting with their back to the window. Environmental control is yet another solution to the problem. Investing in a set of heavy drapes, preferably black, and painting the walls a dark color, will distance the inside world from the outside world, making the presence of light seem like a figment of the imagination. Research shows that reduced light can help the brain relax. Therefore do not worry if you find yourself sleeping at all times in your newly painted room. Perhaps it will enlighten and solve the problem of going outside. Would you be tempted by the warmth of the sun when it’s 90+ degrees where you are?

If you still find yourself wanting to leave the building, a small box of fertilizer immediately outside your window may help get rid of such a self-destructive desire. Several times a year, when the grass gets fertilized and the olive trees get sprayed, the odor that permeates the campus keeps large numbers of people from going outside. While the grass does not need to be fertilized more than a few times a year, there is no reason not to keep the smell around for the benefit of the community. Small boxes of fertilizer can be made available for individual purchase, and should be given out free of charge as part of student government support kits, as exam time is an exact time when you need to reduce stress.

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Maintaining a nocturnal schedule, playing videogames, and drinking copious amounts of hot liquids in dark, hot, odorous rooms will let you finish your term, keeping you studying diligently and on track to graduate in four years. And remember, especially during the weekend, if you must be awake during the daylight hours and you are hungry, don’t go out—call for delivery.
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All right, all right, I'll eat a hambuger! Thank you!

SPRING!

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Dean's Corner

President's Days

by Jean-Paul Revel

Even before the assault of Sept 11, we, the US, had been at "war" fighting a shadowy enemy. After being brazenly provoked in some sense, perhaps better to say, instigators. But by making good on our warnings to the Taliban we have demonstrated that we mean business, that we won't allow terrorists to dictate. Unfortunately demonstrations of the sort may not do much good since the other side is not listening, convinced that whatever they have to endure will insure for them a place in their heaven. It is not a new problem. We are now in a position a bit like that of the Romans, and "they" are like the early Christians. The latter were the martyrs in those days, willingly, well, at least resolutely, being devoured by lions for the sake of their beliefs. I am not sure I like the answer to the question as to who won and who lost that battle, if anyone can be said to have been victorious. In the fullness of time the Romans kind of petered out and the Christians are still doing well. Translating that in our own welfare. You have beanators. Doesn't hurt at all. And "the point to stay out of anymore?"

"I was struck in particular with his bewilderment at this conflict 'read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other.' Well, in the present conflict, while still striving for a war, we strive for the opposite and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations. Perhaps it will be so if we strive for peace, not war.

A bientot

Jean-Paul Revel
Dean of Students
February 25, 2002

8 Mints

The California Tech
Cafeteria 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

Announcements

It’s time to SURF! If you’re thinking about applying for a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, you should begin now to look for a mentor and ask for letters of recommendation. The SURF application deadline is Monday, March 1. Check out the SURF web site at www.caltech.edu/~surf/ for application procedures and a list of current announced opportunities from faculty members and JPL technical staff members, and download an application. For more information, contact the Student-Faculty Program office at ext. 6285 or sprinter.

The Los Angeles Council of Hostelling International - American Youth Hostels (HI-AHY) is seeking takes part in a nine-hour retreat, was created to assist a deserving student between the ages of 17 and 26 to realize educational goals through travel. Candidates for the grant should be planning to travel this summer, and be willing to share experiences with Hostelling International staff, friends, and the press. All the information about the grant application can be found at 3305-343-1. In addition to the application, you need to submit a proposal with your travel itinerary detailing what your educational goals are for the trip. The workshop proposal should be about two-page long. The selection committee will be given to the student will be based on the following criteria: 1) the system established by the Humanities and Social Sciences, 110-40, on March 14, 2002. No entries will be returned. Each category will be judged by a committee from the Literature Faculty. Entries will be judged on the quality of thought and the effectiveness of the writing. Winners will be announced in May, and the names of the winners will appear in the commencement program. The Committee will decide the award in each category in case of more than one outstanding submission. Previous winners in any one category are not eligible for the competition in that category. If you have any questions, contact Prof. La Belle, ext. 3605, or Barbiera Estrella, ext. 3609.

The Literature Faculty is also pleased to announce the Annual Hallstatt Smith Competition honoring the finest essay devoted to Shakespeare. Only full-time, officially registered undergraduates are eligible to participate. Authors must submit a one-page abstract and double-spaced and should not exceed 4,000 words. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 15 pages. The essay must be submitted by Thursday, March 20, 2002. The winner will be awarded $300 in cash and a certificate. Submission of an essay constitutes acceptance of the rules. Additional information on the competition may be obtained from Prof. La Belle, ext. 3605, or Barbiera Estrella, ext. 3609.

The Ballroom Dance club is now offering two new class series: Nightclub Two-Step and Ceroc. Nightclub Two-step: danced to slower, romantic songs will be taught by professional instructor Erika Petronis. Watson Lessons will begin on Mondays (25th of Feb., 14, and March) $30 for series or $12 per class. You will learn both the bronze and silver trays. Ceroc: A fast-paced swing/hustle variant, will be offered on Wednesdays (27th of Feb., 13 March). $31/session for first and second class students and $41 for all other class students, we have a free multi-ballroom dance party - open dancing, contest, round robin, question or your music. 

The California Tech

Wonderful Events

The Pasadena Symphony will present "Masterful Encores" with Jorge Meester as Conductor and Elmar Olivera on the violin on Saturday, March 9, 2002 at 8 pm (Program Concert by musicologist Byron Adams, 7 pm.) The program includes: Billy the Kid, Copland; Violin Concerto, Brahms; Jeu de Cartes, Stravinsky. The performance is sponsored by the Sherman Fairchild Library and Peggy Lee, Office of the General Counsel. The scholarship community researchers are active authors and readers, producers and consumers. This seminar will take place in the Caltech Union Auditorium, Thursday, February 28, 2002 at 4 pm. Refreshments will be served. Seminars are on the Caltech campus and open to the community at no charge. For more information, contact Michelle Reichwein at (626) 395-363 or michelle@caltech.edu. For a complete list of SEEP Seminars and Harris Lectures scheduled for this academic year, visit our web site: http://www.hss.caltech.edu/seep/seep.html.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

The California Tech

Student Program Board. The Caltech Women's Center invites you to be part of the new and exciting event that is happening tomorrow! "Women in Corporate Columbia," a two-day event which will be held at the Caltech Women's Center, 265-86, 2nd floor of the Center for Student Services. This group is facilitated by the Counseling Center and International Student Programs, and is open to all Caltech students, graduate and undergraduate, American and international. Drop-ins welcome. For more information, contact Athena Castro at ext. 3621 or stop by our office in room 265 of the Center for Student Services.

Upcoming Events

The Caltech Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences and The William and Myrtle Harris Distinguished Lecture in Science and Civilization presents Dr. Fritz Stuhr, University Professor of Science and Technology, Columbia University, "Einstein and the German Question," This seminar will take place at Beckman Institute Auditorium, Thursday, February 28, 2002 at 4 pm. Refreshments will be served. Seminars are on the Caltech campus and open to the community at no charge. For more information, contact Michelle Reichwein at (626) 395-363 or michelle@caltech.edu. For a complete list of SEEP Seminars and Harris Lectures scheduled for this academic year, visit our web site: http://www.hss.caltech.edu/seep/seep.html.

The California Tech

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