Lasers Beam Cataract Patients Beyond 20/20

By JON FOSTER

In her March 6 Watson Lecture, Prof. Julia Kornfield explained that the laser technology used to remove cataracts is a fifth century B.C. Hindu practice. He advocated spraying the patient down to a couch and using a rod to push the lens of the eye back into the eye. This cured the cataract (which is when the lens becomes cloudy, ob­‌serving sight), but also prevented the patient from being able to focus on anything else.

Luckily, medicine has advanced significantly since then, and there is now an entirely new technology in which the old lens is removed and a new artificial lens is inserted.

The procedure is common, and works well, but has one major drawback. The implanted lens is carefully produced to be the right shape, but following the operation the eye heels around the lens in an unpredictable way, moving and stretching the lens. Because of this, many cataract patients require glasses or contact lenses after the operation.

It was an optometrist, Daniel Schwartz, who contacted Kornfield about solving this problem. Kornfield, who studies the physics of polymers, agreed to take up the challenge, and contacted Robert Grubb, an expert in polymer synthesis. Together, the three of them came up with a plan to make the perfect replacement lens, one which could be adjusted easily after the operation to correct for any disto­tions produced by the healing process.

The three decided to try to use the phenomenon of photopolymeriza­tion, in which laser light can be used to stimulate small molecules to assemble into larger ones. They planned to imbed monomers in a silicone lens. Shining light on the implanted lens would stimulate the monomers to join into larger molecules which could change the refractive index of the lens. If they could selectively control where these long molecules would form they could delicately tweak the focusing properties of the lens.

A cataract operation using the new lens would involve taking the lens out to a surgeon. First, the traditional operation would be performed, us­ing the new adjustable lens as the replacement. A few days would elapse in which the eye would heal around the new lens, deforming it. The patient would return to the sur­门外, and Iram Parveen Bilal

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE), which is now celebrating 50 years of leadership, held its Region B conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico from February 28 to March 3, 2002. Region B, one of the ten regions in the US, brings together the SWE Sections of five states: California, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona. The conference primarily consisted of semi­‌nars on trambuilding, leadership, and entrepreneurship with engineering, tours around Albuquerque and informal sessions of student­professional intermingling. From a political standpoint, it was also a time of electing the new Student Re­‌gional Representative and the new Student Regional Newsletter Edi­‌tor.

This year, Caltech was repre­‌sented by six SWE members, namely President Emma Kang ’02, Vice President Kelly Klima ’03, Secretary Mona Sheikhi ’03, Treas­‌urer Sindy Tang ’03, Kristin Shante ’04 and Iram Parveen Bilal ’04.

In the general student meeting, Bilal was elected as one of the two Regional Student Newsletter Editors. She will be responsible for the winter edition of the Newsletter in 2003 for the whole region.

The National President-elect for the 2002-03 term, Rachel McQuillen, graciously took some time to speak with us about the conference.

“It is nice to come to regional meetings like this. In other confer­‌ences like the national ones, we don’t normally get time to talk to people and especially students on an individual basis,” she said while also referring to the national con­‌ference.

Continued on Page 2, Column 3

KOONIN WARNS U.S. SENATE OF ‘DIRTY’ THREAT

TAGS AMERICA UNPREPARED

SPEAKS BEFORE HELMENS, BIDEN IN FOREIGN COMMITTEE

By KEVIN BARTZ

In his testimony last Wednesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Provost Steven Koonin warned lawmakers that America is unprepared to respond to poten­‌tial “dirty bombs,” conventional ex­‌plosives specifically designed to dis­‌seminate radioactive waste.

Would-be terrorists have fairly easy access to materials for building dirty bombs. Just scrounge for residue from any old X-ray ma­‌chine, hospital lab or nuclear power plant, said Koonin, and half the job is done. From there, a terrorist in­‌serts the radioactive sample into an explosive shell and detonates it with conventional gunpowder.

However, any such dirty bomber would have a hard time accumulating anything more than an infini­‌tesimal amount of the readily avail­‌able forms of toxic material, spe­‌cifically iodine and cesium iso­‌topes. And even with a liberal esti­‌mate of three Curies—nearly a whole gram of radioactive iso­‌topes—Koonin foresaw only four more cancer deaths to the annual total of 20,000 in a population of 100 million.

Due to the relatively small toll caused by such a device, Koonin feared as the true culprit. “We are talking about a weapon of mass disruption more than destruction,” he said. “These weapons are not about terror. They are about psycho­‌Continued on Page 2, Column 3

Koonin Warns U.S. Senate of ‘Dirty’ Threat

Speaks Before Helmens, Biden in Foreign Committee
Dengue Virus Threatened?

PASADENA-Scientists have de­
termined the fine-detail structure of the virus that causes dengue fever. Reporting in the March 8 issue of the journal Cell, Caltech biology professor James H. Strauss, author Richard J. Won, and M. Rosman and T. Baker, all three of Palomar, describe the structure of the virus they obtained with a cryo-electron microscopy.

The map shows the inner RNA core of the virus as well as the outer spherical layer containing it. At the surface is the glycoprotein scaffold­ ing thought to allow the virus to in­teract with the receptor and invade a host cell.

This is the first time the structure of one of the flaviviruses has been described, Strauss says. The flaviviruses are a class of viruses enclosed with a glycoprotein outer layer that includes minor projection points out of the lipoid layer due to the duality of the virus.

The surprise was the unusual

Optometrist Outlines Path to 'Perfect Vision'

Continued from Page 1, Column 4

fraction for the center of the lens, he would like a laser light on just this section. The light would stimu­late the monomers in this region to form into polymers. Over the next few days diffusion would occur, with the remaining monomers reacting with the lens, buckling all of the monomers into a Kohnitf center. The center lens now has an increased density of mate­rial, and thus an increased index of refraction. The laser light does not provoke a healing response from the eye, so no modifications are not destroyed.

In what Korfmdied called "one of those wonderful fortuitous discov­eries in science," the group found that their method was even more powerful than they had planned. Diffusion of the monomers caused the lens to change shape, dramati­cally increasing the power of the eye. With this increase in power, the group estimates the up to 98% of all patients can have their vision corrected in this way. As a start-up company, Caltech Vision, has found that this system is very promising. LALs have implications for more than just cataract patients. A LAL could simply be manufactured to fit the existing lens and corneas of a patient with poor vision. As an alternative to laser correction surgery, this method promises an even more dramatic improvement in eyesight, since laser surgery pro­vokes a healing response from the eye, and that response is always irreversible.

In fact, the incredible level of tweaking afforded by LALs could change our notion of what perfect vision means. No single lens is per­fect, especially not the ones nature manufactures for our eyes. Adding a LAL could allow for surgeons to tweak it to perfect a person’s vision. It would be possible to create “sup­plementary lenses” that would enable a person to see with higher clarity than is naturally possible. Korfmdied predicts a dramatic visual improvement of what the Statue of Liberty would look like from three kilometers with 20/20 vision and with LAL cor­rected sight.

But because Franklin’s invention of bifocals in the 1780s created quite a stir. When contact lenses became functional in the early part of the 20th century they similarly spread worldwide. The population recently, las­er surgery has become widespread in only a few years. Will LALs be the next big step in vision correction?

Continued from Page 1, Column 4

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

logical fear and they are about eco­nomic destruction, not casualties. Hospitals would be equipped to handle the worsthood and concerned businesses would move out of town. Legislators would throw vast sums of money to speed up work what would already be a multi­year cleanup effort. "The psycho­social effects would be enormous," Korfmdied said.

In the end, Koonin pointed to more hysteresis as the mon­umental end result—albeit a mass hys­teria the nation’s medical staff is likely supposed to handle. There are enough screwballs out there willing to risk or even give their lives to drive ‘dirty bomb’ said Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Sen. Joe Biden.

There are certain features like online member­ship payments available soon. She also thinks that SWF should have archives and engineering and pro­motion. If that personal information available in October in SWE headquarters in Chicago.

Having been a Civil and Trans­portation Engineer with a Bachelors and Masters Degree from the Uni­versity of Iowa. Apart from volun­teering for SWE, she has her own professional job. She says the vision is a very family woman too and a full-time mother, with two sons, ages 5 and 12.

Her major goals for her term are firstly, to do as much as possible and more importantly remain members in the society. “We would like our students to become life members.”

She wants to specifically try and increase the opportu­nity for all students, especially for all levels of membership.

Very relevant to our section here are efforts by the Student Section Activity Task Force (SVTF) that is focused on strengthening sections. For instance, we need much more attention and participa­tion at Tech and this might be fixed with standard ways that the SVTF suggests.

In addition, McQuillen wants to work on the SWE website and make certain features like online member­ship payments available soon. She also thinks that SWE should have archives and engineering and pro­motion. If that personal information available in October in SWE headquarters in Chicago.

Caltech Astronomer Hunts ‘Hot Jupiters’ With Commercial Camera

PASADENA-In an age when nearly all astronomical work re­quires really big telescopes, David Charbonneau is something of an anomaly. The Caltech astronomer will soon begin a multiyear survey for extratropical planets at Palomar Observatory-­not with the 200-inch Hale telescope, but with a disk­top-sized device he and JPL research­er John Trauger assembled largely from parts bought at a cam­era shop.

It begins in his instrument on a standard 300mm telephoto lens for a 35mm camera, Charbonneau will begin focusing the skies in hopes of catching a slew of “hot Jupiters” as their fast orbits take them in front of other stars. Admit­tedly, the charge-coupled device (CCD) at the camera-end of the lens is a good bit more costly than the models here. But that work was done with the Hubble Space Telescope. The gal­­axy is centered on a region of deep space to be-­formally-­named telescope at Palomar Observatory will certainly be more in cost, but as bit as ambitious a program for searching for Extrasolar planets.

At the fore-end of the new instru­ment is a standard 300mm camera, Charbonneau settled on a 35mm telephoto lens he found because he reasoned that these lenses have been honed to a fine degree of precision over the years and that the lens would be robust enough for the duration of the year project.

The CCD is a standard imaging tool in astronomy for the last couple of decades, is a $2,000 number that acc­counts for the largest part of the in­strument budget. The CCD will be mounted in a specially constructed camera housing to fit at the back of the telescope and the entire device can be fitted onto an equatorial mount.

Meanwhile, the Palomar staff has stored away a 20-inch telescope Charbonneau will have a small dome for his new instrument, and

Caltech Astronomer Hunts ‘Hot Jupiters’ With Commercial Camera
From Narcissus to Echo: Hotornot.com and the Power of Self-perception

By IJALAN WANG

As everyone knows (or should know, at least), the correct answer when a girl asks if she is fatugly/otherwise unattractive is always “no.” While most of us have a desire to know how we are viewed by others, this desire is overwhelmingly fed by self-delusion, by 0.4% of men in their teens who fear being unattractive to women. This is because a woman’s eyes are purposely staring into the mirror. Mirror-gazing itself is a very curious activity. In image-centric America, mirrors are everywhere. From locations ranging from elevators to gyms, our reflections beckon us with lurid appeal, like a car wreck painted on silversed glass. A mirror image is much more than just a reflection of our malevolent self. It is the face of another, a reflection of our faces and feet and thighs. In the split second between perception and consciousness, all objects are lost, and the image in our mind’s eye is a collage of what we are, what we want to be, and what we fear. We stare intently into the eyes of our reflections, trying to reconcile our inner perceptions of ourselves to external reality. How can I make myself look better, and how can I change myself to better fit in with society?

Recently, a new twist has been added to the mystery of perception in the form of a website: www.hotornot.com. The site allows people to submit images of themselves for the judgment of millions of bored teenagers across the globe who rate at random, then average out the rating from 1 to 10. On one side, this website finally allows us to find out what people really think: how low can one go while retaining the option of rejecting any unfavorable result, or at least a rough estimate of this. On the viewer’s side, the site allows us to compare our standards of beauty with others, and compare our own looks with others. Hotornot.com not only directly addresses our deep-seated fear of physical unattractiveness, but it is also a strangely and wonderfully direct way of playing the collective self-esteem game. Finally, we can have one of our most burning questions in life answered — in a certain extent anyway.

So how do we solve all of our self-image issues once and for all? Unfortunately not. For one, it doesn’t really add any new information. In the deepest corners of our consciousness, all reasonably rational and perceptive people have good ideas of what others think of them. We also have ideas for what we think we should be and not be. Our self-perception is a composite of all of these images, forming the core of our illusions. For the most part, we just assimilate any new information into our existing images of ourselves, interpreting liberally as necessary. Even our partners really think we are better off not knowing.

Jesus Christ, Election Reform, and Your 88-year-old Grandma

An Insider Doubts ASCIT’s Polling Legitimacy

By ABE FETTMAN

These days, everyone and his 88-year-old grandmother are talking about election reform (especially those with re­spective grandparents). This led me to wonder: How in the world did I lose my last election for ASCR Chair?

The obvious answer was that I wasn’t nearly as qualified as my opponent. I did not come into such logical answers. No, I sensed something deeper, something... inexplicable.

Much later, attending one of my humanities lectures, I learned of the “Jesus Christ Principle.” That is, in a voting system such as ours, ev­eryone votes for someone first and then, presumably, for Jesus Christ second. Good idea. However, I never knew how to vote the rest of democracy, therefore inherently unstable “democ­racies” based on what people think.
Counseling: We’re Here to Help

By KEVIN AUSTIN, Ph.D.

Most undergraduates think of the second term as a particularly tough term and the numbers of students seeking help from the Counseling Center does increase during this time. There are a number of reasons for this term being particularly difficult including the sense of excitement the freshmen have with the new school year has worn off and it’s a long while until the end. Students come to the Center now for all the same reasons as they do other terms (e.g. relationship issues, cultural adjustment, and uncertainty about their desire to continue in science) but concerns about stress and depression increase noticeably.

One of the things the Counseling Center does to help students cope is to offer workshops on issues that students face. This term the Counseling Center offered programs on stress management, body image and relationships. We will be offering another program on relationships next term.

Because a number of students experience depression for the first time at Caltech we are providing training to groups of students on “How to Help a Friend Who May Be Depressed or Suicidal.” The focus of this program is to help students identify the signs of depression and suicide and how to be of help. If you are concerned about a friend who may be depressed or is experiencing any kind of emotional problem, our website offers specific information on how to help. http://www.counseling.caltech.edu/

Here are some other services we offer that you may find valuable:

- The IHC/CIT IHC Junior: Elise Kleeman Food Committee Chair: Natalia Deligne Volunteer to work with international students. We will be running a very qualified applicant pool, with ASCIT as the middleman. It’s common for students to read something they are interested in getting more involved with the student organizations, and then come in to talk with us about it.

As you can see, help for the stress of second term comes in many different forms. You may always consider coming to one of the programs being offered or come talk to us—we are here to help.

Led by President Ted Jos ’03, ASCIT’s Board of Directors debates an election held by the underclassmen’s Student Class President, Mammad. Essentially, they are going to keep all of our books and manage our various payroll, for free. We maintain control over all our finances of course, but they take care of the paperwork, including filing taxes. It doesn’t get any better than that. We’re also getting a credit card (finally), which will be connected to a Caltech Credit Union account. A system will also hopefully be set up whereby clubs will once again be able to charge dues through UID’s, with ASCIT as the middleman.

A rumor that the Tech business managers are still paying themselves 10% each (rather than 10% between both of them) surfaces, despite the BAMs being directed to do the latter by Martha-Helene and the 2001-2002 BoD. This will be investigated. We’re going to be running a tighter ship with regards to publication finances in general this year, since all the necessary records will be on campus and close at hand. Article XIV of the Bylaws gives the ASCIT BoD “ultimate” control over all publication salaries.

In another signup controversy, one person running for Senior Class-Co-President wishes to switch running mates (with the running mate’s consent). The BoD is inclined to let this happen only with the approval of every other candidate in the same race, since any change obviously affects them.

Continuing a discussion on development, various people announce plans to go to Copenhagen, Cambridge, Uzbekistan, Mars, etc., sometime during the next school year. Marcus surmises that by halfway through next year, there won’t be any voting BoD members left (appointed replacements can’t vote).

Office Reports

Ted has scheduled the big interview-and-appointment BoD meeting for this Wednesday at 7 p.m. Joe reports that signatures for the various aforementioned ASCIT-offices will be coming down at 5 p.m. (sharp) Monday. He will email the people who have signed up to confirm the time for Wednesday.

Marcus reports that the joint ASCIT BoD-IHC meeting to appoint CRC reps will be sometime on Tuesday, because that’s when outgoing CRC Chair Aaron Robison is available, and the appointments need to be done soon. Marcus has also located a drill with which to create the final hole necessary to have a working DVD cabinet. Please, please finish it.

Bast reports that there are still no ARC Reps from Puge or Rickets, but that the rest of the houses have elected their representatives.

Jilian reports new members of the Executive Social Committee: Also Somers (Dabney), Xiao Peng (Fleming), Elaine Gee (Blacker), Alice Lin (Lloyd), Ruzen Patel (Rickets), Juanna Cohen (Page) and Megan Kennedy (Ruddock). Spencer Rarrick (Jemann-Needham) is also on the committee, and Jillian will try to find someone from Avery, too.

Andrew updates signs advertising the upcoming survey on March 15. Clubs, don’t forget to register with Donat in time to be included on the survey. There is still some bearing on funding for next year.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ASCIT Secretary

KLEMAN, RAINIER, DELIGNE PICKED FOR WILLIAMS’ IHC

The IHC would like to thank everyone who volunteered for the positions of IHC Secretary, Ath Man. and Food Committee Chair. From among a very qualified applicant pool, the following officers were chosen:

IHC Secretary: Elise Kleeman
IHC Ath Man: Shane Rainier
Food Committee Chair: Natalia Deligne

IN LIKE A MAYAN, OUT LIKE A...

By Abel Bourbois

Upcoming Events

Contact Greg (gary@its) for additional info on any event.

Symposium (3/15, 7 p.m., Bi Auditorium). Discussion on the historic mechanisms, and current significance of the proposed International Criminal Court. Presented by Peace LoJoya (Coalition for Peace in El Salvador) and Power tools, plastic bags, and broken planks lay strewn about in the aftermath of Ruddock’s “Mayan Temple” party, which drew throngs of students the Saturday before last.

MARCH 5, 2002

Presenting officer: Joe, Janet, Marcus, Bast, Jilian, Neda, Andrea. Absent: Vikram (Cambridge) Guests: Kevin Bartz (Tech editor), Krista Ehlersurger, Ryan Sumson, Dee Dutta

Meeting called to order at 4:37 p.m.

Guests

Krista picks up Blacker’s Multiphase funding for the term. Marcus for Spencer Barrick and Ryan, respectively, pick up the Dabney and Puge Interhouse funding house.

General Meeting

The Capra retreat is set for the weekend of April 12. This multi-day budgeting and fun session will set the tone for the rest of our terms. One need only look at how a single viewing of “Bring It On” defined the last BoD vote. A rumor that the Tech business managers are still paying themselves 10% each (rather than 10% between both of them) surfaces, despite the BAMs being directed to do the latter by Martha-Helene and the 2001-2002 BoD. This will be investigated. We’re going to be running a tighter ship with regards to publication finances in general this year, since all the necessary records will be on campus and close at hand. Article XIV of the Bylaws gives the ASCIT BoD “ultimate” control over all publication salaries.

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IN LIKE A MAYAN, OUT LIKE A...
Violence Escalates in Middle East

Over the past week, more than 100 Palestinians and Israelis have died in acts of violence. The latest includes a shooting at a Gaza settlement by a Palestinian man on Thursday; the shooting killed five Israeli men who were studying at a religious school and wounded at least another 20. Hours after the shooting, the Israeli military responded with attacks on several Palestinian targets in northern Gaza City as well as a strike on Khan Younis killing 32 Palestinians according to Palestinian sources. However, amidst this escalation in violence, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has called for ceasefire talks after international criticism and sharp words from President George W. Bush. This was a change in his position from a week ago when Sharon said that a week hiatus in violence before ceasefire talks could begin. Also, President Bush has sent special Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni to the region in an attempt to calm the violence.

Kmart Closes Stores, Cuts Jobs

After filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on January 22, Kmart has decided to close 284 stores and cut 22,000 jobs in an effort to emerge from bankruptcy. It also plans on liquidating most of its inventory through sales. Kmart’s bankruptcy was brought on by continued losses at Wal-Mart and Target as well as poor business decisions in the 1990’s.

Signs of Economic Recovery

During the Federal Reserve monthly meeting, Chairman Alan Greenspan decided to leave interest rates unchanged after 11 rate cuts in 2001. This along with encouraging signs from the manufacturing sector and consumer spending have fueled a rally on Wall Street. The Dow Jones Industrial posted nearly a 500-point gain during the first two sessions of the month and is positive for March. However, uncertainty in the war on terrorism and instability in the Middle East may limit potential economic growth and the return of a bull market.

The position of senior class president requires responsibility, dedication, and trust. We have all of these qualities and are very eager to serve as your senior class president.

We earnestly hope that you will give us the opportunity to serve as your Senior Class Presidents. Thank you.
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Some banks try to disguise their high-cost credit cards with "teaser rates" or introductory offers. They sound great...until you read the tiny type. That’s where our Credit Union VISA is different.

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- NO annual fee
- NO cash advance fee
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These advantages are just part of the lifelong benefits of Credit Union membership. At CEFCU, you’ll also find some of the highest rates on savings and lowest rates on loans in the nation!

See for yourself. Visit us online at www.cefcu.org or in person. Or, call (626) 395-6300 for a VISA application and magnify your financial power today!

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

The Closer You Look, the Better We Get!

NCUA Your savings federally insured to $100,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government agency. CEFCU is an equal opportunity lender.
Dean's Corner

Ring Ring Ring

by Jean-Paul Revel

I have to say I imagined that right when the reporter arrived, just as I was about to ask how did I know that the rules were being followed? Of course there is no way to know with absolute certainty, but we do have mechanisms in place to make sure that the Honor System is upheld. When something suspicious happens the person discovering the alleged violation reports it to the chair of the Board of Control, a group of trusted students elected by their peers, or to the Conduct Review Committee, led by the Associate Dean and an elected student, and composed of Students, Faculty and Staff. The BoC deals mainly with possible academic problems and the CRC with other problems. The decisions are reviewed by the Dean and can be appealed. They are not meant as punishment, but as educational tools. The BoC aims at nullifying the advantage gained by the defendant, by removing academic credit wrongfully gained, and to protect the rest of the community by taking action which will help prevent recurrences. Of course if the remedies have no effect, then the student may be asked to leave the institute for an indefinite (I. e. possibly permanent) basis. The BoC's decisions, while not couched in the same terms, also aim at education, and preventing recurrences.

Yes that's what I'll say to that reporter and I'll be all packed in a very few words. Oh it does not mean that we don't need elaboration and "outside" help and guidance. The students are given a first glance at the Honor Code, at Fresh Camp. The Honor Code Handbook, is given to all students when they arrive on Campus, and also sent to Pros. The same material can be found on the web (http://www.eco.caltech.edu/~asci/boceUGHSbook.html), by or following the trail started by typing in "Honor Code". Other help can be found in the pages on "Intellectual Property" which contain a copyright tutorial and a statement of Caltech's Policy in this regard. From there one can also reach an excellent U. Texas site (there are other sites too, like the U. of Rochester site recommended recently by a colleague) Of course there are also less formal places like articles in the Tech- the Student paper, where some of these problems were discussed as recently as Jan 28.

Me: You know what? Monday 9am passed, and so did Tuesday and Wednesday the reporter did not call. But it was not a waste of a week-end we all have to look at this stuff once in a while. So before finals? A bonjour!

Jean-Paul Revel
Dean of Students

THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  DEAN’S CORNER  MARCH 11, 2002

7
One of the many benefits of your Caltech Student Health Insurance plan is the option of having prescriptions mailed directly to you. In addition to the convenience this service provides, it also significantly reduces the cost of maintenance medications — those that a student would take on a day-to-day basis, such as insulin, for instance. It costs $12 for generic drugs and $20 for brand name drugs. For more information, including how to submit a mail order prescription, check out the Health Center’s web page at: http://www.healthcenter.caltech.edu. Click on Insurance Policy, Prescriptions, and scroll down to ‘Through a trusted mail order pharmacy.’

**Information on New Tax Benefits.** Looking for information on the new tax benefits for paying for your Caltech education? The Financial Aid Office has several publications to assist you in preparing your income tax returns. Stop by our office if you would like copies of the materials. The Caltech Financial Aid Office does not offer tax advice and you should not rely on the publications without consulting your own tax advisor. For a full explanation of what the tax code contains, or for information regarding the IRS Tax Questions Hot Line: These materials are for informational purposes only and may help clarify some of the most commonly asked questions. Although the published materials are believed to be accurate, Caltech assumes no responsibility for any errors or omissions. Use or reliance on the information may not result in compliance with the actual tax regulations, and it is suggested that you consult with your financial professional.

The Los Angeles Council of Hostelling International - American Youth Hostels (HI-AYH), is seeking candidates for its 2002 Travel Grant. The grant, a $500 award, was created to assist a deserving student between the ages of 17 and 26 to realize an educational goal through travel. Candidates for the grant should be planning to travel this summer, and be willing to share their experiences with Hostelling International upon their return. To receive an application, call the HI-Travel Grant at 310-393-3413.

In addition to the application, you need to submit a proposal with your travel itinerary detailing what your educational goals or planning on the fall of the 2001-2002 academic year. The field of study is open, but consideration will be given to the student's potential for making a significant contribution to his or her field of study.

The deadline is March 15, 2002. All applications are available from the Fellowship Office.

**Attention Writers!** The Literature Faculty is pleased to announce the 56th Annual McKinley Competition. The Mary A. Earl McKinley Prize is awarded each year for excellence in writing. Only full-time students officially registered at Caltech are eligible to enter the competition. This year, prizes will be given in three categories: poetry, prose fiction, and non-fiction essays. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced. Include your address and phone number in the poems and essays. No handwritten submissions will be accepted. All papers must be submitted by March 15, 2002.

Each essay will be judged by a committee from the Literature Faculty. Essays 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 may divide the award in equal parts in case of more than one outstanding submission. Prizes in different categories are not eligible for the competition in that category. If you have any questions, contact Prof. La Bella, est. 3605, or Barbara Estrada, est. 3609.

The Literature Faculty is also pleased to announce the Annual Festival Smith Competition honoring the former Head of English. The Festival Smith Competition is open to all full-time students at Caltech. Only full-time students officially registered at Caltech are eligible to enter the competition. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced and should not exceed 4,000 words. The essay may be one prepared for a humanities class or may be specifically designed for the competition. All essays must include a Matter of Fact section. This section should be no less than 1,000 words. Submit your essay to Professor Jeanne La Bell, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 100-40, by no later than March 14, 2002. The committee will announce the winners in May.

The Literature Committee will review the applications and make the awards. Further information about the scholarship is available at: http://www.caltech.edu/Departments/English.html. It is recommended that all interested students apply for this competition. All applications are due on March 15, 2002. This year’s program will award scholarships of $1,500 each for full-time undergraduate students, based on documented financial need. All applicants must have an adjusted family gross income of $35,000 or less. Up to 50 percent of the scholarship awards will be targeted to applicants from families in addition to having financial need, are members of an ethnic minority or are physically disabled.

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

**Cultural Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations (COHEA) offers annual scholarships to undergraduate students at Caltech. Details of the scholarship are as follows: -Applicants must be U.S. citizens. -Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.1 on a 4.0 scale. -Applicants must submit a proposal to attend an outstanding conference for a personal or professional interest. The deadline for applications is March 15, 2002. This year’s program will award scholarships of $3,500 each.**

The Caltech Library System Presents: The following session is approximately one hour of formal instruction on the use of a computer-assisted word processing program. The program, which is designed for the初学者, will give students a basic understanding of electronic literature. The seminar will take place on April 24, 1994 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Multimedia Conference Rooms B. The seminar will be held in conjunction with the workshop offered by the Student Center for Computer Learning. This workshop will include a mixture of informal lecture and experiential exercises focusing on basic literature techniques and stress management skills. The workshop will meet on Monday, February 25, 2002 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Health Center Lounge. Space is limited, so please call est. 8331 to reserve your place in the group. The workshop will be facilitated by Anna Estes, a professional stress management expert.

**Attention Students:** Are you interested in discussing life at Caltech and in the United States? If so, the Intercultural Discussion and Support Group provides a forum for Caltech students to explore the process of cultural adjustment and relating across cultures. The group meets every Monday from 12:15-1 p.m. in the Counseling Center. All students, regardless of their background, are welcome. For more information, please contact Athena Castro (acastro@caltech.edu) or Greg Fletcher (gfletcher@caltech.edu) at est. 5613.