Krauss Muses on Star Trek Physics

By O.J. CARLTON

I guess I'll start with a confession. I only came to Caltech because it was the best thing to Sturffeed Academ. If there's any worthwhile institution capable of developing warp drive, it's probably this one. So it's no surprise to me that the turnout last Wednesday to see Lawrence Krauss's talk, The Physics of Star Trek, was nearly double that for the previous Voices of Vision event.

Boasting a list of academic credentials that would rival those of most Vaucans, Krauss has made his mark on academia numerous times as researcher and author in the fields of elementary particles, astrophysics, and quantum mechanics. If he were on a warship, he'd have a blue uniform, but I digress.

Fortunately for his readers and for the crowd at Beckman, Krauss has a keen ability to put physics in down-to-earth terms that even a Ferengi could understand. Boasting heavily from his best-selling book of the same name, Krauss entertained and enlightened the crowd on such far-reaching topics as wormholes, transporters, and xenobiology.

There were some interesting surprises in the talk, to be sure. Dr. Krauss was kind enough to bring both a warp drive and a worm hole with him, which he had hidden behind the podium. Granted, his implementation was limited to a helium balloon-based universe, but he made his point effectively.

Those of us in the audience were fortunate, however, that Krauss lacked Starfleet security training; if he had managed to actually pop the balloon as he was desperately attempting to, its proximity to his lapel mike would've deafened the people in the first 12 rows or so. He peppered his address with clips from the series that illustrated his points.

The really great thing about Krauss's talk on Trek is that he shares the kind of enlightened optimism that makes the show so appealing. While he is honest and rigorous in examining the science behind the technology of the 24th century, the reader gets the definite impression that he wants it to work.

On a number of occasions, when dealing with a seemingly totally implausible theory, such as wormholes, Krauss concedes several layers of analysis, but leaves an opening for the dreamers. He cited Kip Thorne's analysis of the impossibility of creating stable wormholes using conventional matter, but quickly noted, that if one uses negative energy, "all bets are off."

Continued on Page 5, Column 3

CDS Boosts Food Fees

By ADAM SEARS

Caltech Dining Services (CDS) recently raised prices across campus to counteract increases in overhead and cost of supplies. The 5% price increase has affected food item prices at every venue from Chandler to JPL, and students were not being compensated for the increase.

The price hike has recently brought the topic of board plans and food back into the campus dialogue, giving students a chance to complain about dorm food like most college students. Students are concerned with the excessive cost of on-campus living, the inability to escape a board contract, declining portions and formal dining options.

A number of objections are unavoidable due the vast number of students CDS must simultaneously satisfy. Still, large groups of undergraduates obviously have some sort of bone to pick with CDS.

One significant gripe regards off-campus upclassmen who selectively visit for dinner. More often than not, visits come on the bi-weekly steak night, when they can get the most benefit for their money. Freshmen quickly learn that costs run high for off-campus students who choose to eat in the houses and that they in fact are paying a fairly high price as well. An average dinner costs over $7 for freshmen, who are on the Richter "Traditional" Meal Plan, and around $10 for off-campus upclassmen.

The difference stems from the fact that off-campus students are charged the same price as visitors. Many students say they can easily imagine preparing or purchasing a similar meal for much less and are surprised at the necessity of such prices. Bing Hao '06 remarked that given the circumstances, "if they're not making a profit, something is really wrong."

But in reality, even with what seem to be steep prices, CDS is not even breaking even financially. This is despite the economics of it, with hundreds of undergraduates locked into spending dollars around campus, with CDS in complete control of their options.

According to Natalie Deligne '04, student chair of the institute's Food Committee, there are several contributory factors. Food, for one thing, constitutes only about a third of the total cost for a missed meal.

Moreover, student waiters, paid for serving and for cleanup afterwards, are provided for out of the CDS budget and are only partially subsidized by the university, which

Continued on Page 7, Column 3

BOD DOES OUT $10,000 SURPLUS

ENTERTAINS MONEY SEEKERS

By MATTHEW WALKER

In their final meeting Wednesday night, the outgoing BOD settled a number of issues, mostly involving spending a $10,000 surplus before their term's end and the account's Friday closure. BOD members also tied up loose ends on several other financial issues, besieging funds seekers to turn in receipts by Friday and accepting the agony of completing the issues.

The surplus arose from a number of different sources. The social budget had a large surplus due to the low cost of "What I Love About Caltech" and funds that weren't used for a proposed winter social event. The larger freshman class yielded additional dues. Several clubs didn't pick up their funding for the year, resulting in about $500 of surplus. The BOD's forrest food for most of its meetings, leaving still more unused money in the ac

Continued on Page 7, Column 3

Civil Rights Legend Roberts Shares Past, Present Outlook

By LEA HILDEBRANDT

Last Friday, Terrence Roberts, one of the "Little Rock Nine," spoke at a luncheon at the Atheneum in honor of Black History Month.

The topic of his talk was "Lessons from Little Rock: An Educational Agenda for the 21st Century."

In his talk, Roberts recounted the persecution he faced as one of the "Little Rock Nine," one of the first nine black students chosen to integrate the previously all-white Little Rock Central High School in compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education mandating nationwide integration.

Although then-President Dwight Eisenhower sent the 101st Airborne Division to protect the nine students in the face of massive opposition led by Arkansas's segregationist governor, "the Little Rock Nine" were subject to persecution every day of their school career at Central High. They were constantly beaten, spat at and called obscene names. In fact, Roberts said that each of the Nine had a "personal tormentor" who would always be there, ready to hurt him or her in any way possible. But the Nine, in

Continued on Page 2, Column 1

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Demands of Waste, Breadth, ‘Flexibility’ Force Fresh Round of CDS Price Hikes

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

ever, because CDS must buy its food in bulk and different forms with similar formal dates might choose to serve different entries, the choices options went up in smoke.

The move is just one of several made in the past couple years to streamline the department and hedge losses. Andre Malle, the Dining Services director, had his own take on the difficulties CDS faced in serving the undergraduate community. Malle cited another economic force—the economy scale—which severely hinders their financial operations.

From Arkansas to Pasadena, Roberts Takes ‘Little Rock Lessons’ to Heart

High School

Roberts moved to Los Angeles after a quarter of his senior year for one year and finished his high school degree at Caltech. He continues to study psychology as a doctoral candidate at the California State University, Los Angeles, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology. Roberts continued with graduate school and now has a doctorate in psychology.

In 1985, Roberts and his wife moved to Pasadena, just a few blocks away from Caltech on San Pasqual Avenue. After they had moved in, a couple from the neighborhood approved of a black family they knew that they voted for them. Roberts was also asked about his decision to move in, a couple from the neighborhood approved of a black family they knew that they voted for them.

By 1957, even the schools in very segregationist towns like Little Rock, Arkansas saw themselves forced to integrate. Thus, nine black students, among them Roberts, were chosen to integrate Little Rock Central High School, which had been the best school in the district and previously open only to whites. The black students were supposed to start attending the school in the September of that year.

But then-governor Faubus declared integration an impossibility and sent 270 national guardsmen armed with rifles to prevent the black students from attending the school. When the students arrived at Little Rock Central High School on the first day of school, they were met by such violent opposition that they had to leave to protect their lives. But they were not going to give up this easily. Three weeks later they made a second attempt at attending Central High. This time they had a better chance since NAACP lawyers Thurgood Marshall and Wiley Branton had issued an injunction that prevented Governor Faubus from using the National Guard to deny the nine black students admittance to Central High.

This one, all nine students made it into the building, but by 11 a.m. the situation was again so dangerous that they left through a back door. This prompted President Eisenhower to issue an executive order in order to send the 101st Airborne Division to Little Rock to protect the students who had begun Roberts’ career as one of the Nine. All of the Little Rock Nine were not still alive today. They have a foundation, the Little Rock Nine Foundation, with a population of 12. The main goal of the foundation is to provide scholarship assistance. Roberts encouraged everybody to make a contribution to this cause.

The luncheon was part of a series of programs in honor of Black History Month. The special aspect about this luncheon was that it was initiated and planned almost exclusively by the Black Graduate Student Association of Caltech. Other offices around campus sponsored the event, including the office of Minority Student Affairs, the Caltech Y and the Women’s Center.
ASCIT’s Coming at You!

Undergraduate Body Calls For ‘In-your-face Democracy’

By TOM FLETCHER

You may notice I’m dividing this column into subsections. I realized it would be a good idea when last week’s column was somewhat unreadable, even by the author. Get used to it, rolling with the punches sometime.

First ASCIT BoD Meeting

Anyway, the new ASCIT BoD took over Friday night. Our first meeting is going to be Thursday afternoon, right in the middle of the Olive Walk. I assure you it will be impossible for you to miss it. The current plan is to have the meeting Monday nights in large versions of the agenda so everyone can see it and to allow everyone to engage in the discussion. I expect we’ll have some amusing glitches we’ll need to work out—rain, seating, whispered chippies—who knows?—but I’m committed to making these meetings work.

Admittedly, in so much as I’ve spoken are enthusiastic about actually getting to see our decision making process, which will allow them to see what’s going on. It’s not that I want to hide the goal is that is, the students, find it exciting to be able to witness the meetings and participate.

This is ASCIT, land of participatory democracy and town-hall meetings—my government teachers in grade school always said that self-government should be fun—and I think it would be reassuring to find that voices held, were also heard.

So, you’ve all been duly informed. We’ll make a vote and everything. After all, you get to go for your food to go, bring a bean bag, blanket, chair or sofa and down that should be an interesting experiment in student government here at Caltech. And hey, if it doesn’t work, hey, at least if we don’t still take an interest in what’s going on, we don’t have to try something else until everyone is involved.

Whom did I meet with this week?

As ASCIT President, I had three meetings this week. Two were with Margo Marshall involving many in this year’s Prefrosh Weekend. Sadly, due to budget cutbacks at Student Affairs, Prefrosh Weekend will be only three days this year with the prefrosh going home on Saturday. In my meetings, I urged the administration that students really enjoy Prefrosh Weekend, mostly because it is an opportunity to interact with new people and talk to people about Caltech. Along these lines, they hope to work with materials and people representative from every house, to find a way to preserve the social events in a way that is hopefully satisfactory.

Nevertheless, if you feel strongly about this, I encourage you to write to the prefrosh office giving around the houses so that admissions knows next year to put and end to this experiment. Also, talk to your prefrosh representative so he or she knows how you feel and can make your opinion known to other administrators.

Another interesting outcome of the meeting was Margo’s push to “dis unrest” both sides on the issue of representing Caltech. She urged admissions to put on a more careful face of Caltech life—no more covering up the darker side of life here.

Along the same lines, she asked that we the students move to represent ourselves more truthfully in our discussions with Caltech. If you hate this place, say so, but she asks that we not scare them by portraying only the bad.

For ASCIT’s part in the matter, we plan on general discussion at our next meeting. The Student Faculty Conference along the Olive Walk was very well received. I think the prefrosh can see them, so that they get the most honest glimpse possible. We’re also starting this thing as a special event for the Tech for that weekend with students writing pieces that not only reflect on the experience and to contribute in making a more “truthful” Prefrosh Weekend, talk to the Tech editors. If you have an idea for an article, letter or any other material you may have read in the last Tech. Ad- ministrators have read the letter and are craft- ing their responses. Hopefully, action will be coming soon.

Tom Fletcher

The third meeting I had was with Tom Mannion and Matt Brewer about our money for the plans and our need for the next year. According to finance, ASCIT is flush with cash—how em- poweringly—and we’ve transitioned most of it to external funds. We used to do our banking with Bank of America, but have switched over now to hopefully keep better track of our money. Caltech has also volunteered to file our taxes for us for free, so ASCIT no longer needs to shunt money off to an accountant and neither will it miss its taxes again.

Repreent!

There’s a Faculty Board meeting coming up in the beginning of March. For the most part, it’s a sober, boring affair with some fac- ulty monologues and some cocktails. It’s also the one place, however, where things have been done, because this the body in which the fac- ulty votes to change things.

The new pass/fail policy was approved by this body last month. The agenda for March’s Board meeting is not yet out, but it will be posted online soon for all to see at http://www.its.caltech.edu/~office/pub/Previous student representatives, one from each house, were informed about the importance of the meeting with this week? The Interhouse Committee will meet with this week?

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Let Prefrosh Weekend Provide ‘Prospectives’ With Perspective

By MATTHEW WALKER

This past week, the administration an- nounced a decision to shorten Prefrosh Week- end to two days this year. The news the prefrosh had been waiting to arrive on Thursday and leave Saturday, ef- fectively giving them one day to experience Caltech. This shortened period for prefrosh to experience Caltech would not have ben- efited consequences.

Obviously, if prefrosh only have one day to meet and find students what they are like, it will be a lot harder for them to get to know a bigger impression of Caltech. The least happy students at Caltech are people who don’t like their house and don’t get along with their peers. Less important but equally important aspects of Caltech life will un- likely cause more unhappy students who didn’t have a chance to find out what Caltech is really like before they came.

Another drawback that this decision causes is that students won’t get to see the social character of Caltech. Thursday night is the busiest house night of the week for a lot of students. A lot of hosts will have to aban- don their prefrosh to finish sets. A conse- quence of the tough academic work Thurs- day is that neither Thursday nor Friday are very social, as students recover from the pre- frosh night’s work on Friday. Without ex- posure to Caltech social life, a lot of the more interested students, that is, the ones who would make positive contributions to Caltech social life, will decide not to come to Caltech be- cause they will think that Caltech is all work.

One component of Caltech character that sets it apart from other universities is the “work hard/play hard” mentality. Much of this im- pression will be lost on the prefrosh without a chance for them to experience the social events that usually occur Saturday evening. 

There is the opinion that social life during prefrosh weekend is portrayed inaccur- acely, the only inaccuracy is the amount of things that happen. While most other week- ends would be hard pressed to have so many interesting social events, none of the events are things that wouldn’t happen at other times in the year. For instance, Lloyd House hosts a capture the flag game, an event which is re- peated by other houses a couple of times per year. Ruddock House does Rodd Engine, which reflects, in a scaled down way, the con-

Letters

Prefrosh Weekend Outrage, Fire, Social Slurs

Trimmed Weekend Disappointing

Dear editors,

We would like to express our outrage and disappointment with the changes made for this year’s Prefrosh Weekend. At the first meeting of weekend representatives, on Monday, the representatives, one from each house, were informed that among other changes, Prefrosh Weekend had been short- ened by a day. Furthermore, instead of host- ing all prefrosh in the seven houses, prefrosh could additionally be hosted by students liv- ing in Avery.

These changes were made without any student consultation. This reflects the growing trend of making decisions that affect students without student input. Eliminating activities traditionally staple to prefrosh weekend. Prefrosh Weekend will deprive of the prefrosh of an opportunity with students. In the past, prefrosh have had little interaction with their prefrosh until Friday night and Saturday day as most of Thursday night and Friday is spent working on sets. Furthermore, Saturday day is traditionally full of house activities such as tie-dying in Dabney, miniature golf in Ruddock, etc. Without the opportunity to participate in such events, prefrosh will meet fewer students and not get a good feel as to the uniqueness and culture of Caltech.

Hosting prefrosh in Avery will further im- pair prefrosh from getting a feel of the undergraduate community. Freshmen are re- mained to spend two terms in one of the seven houses; prefrosh should thus be well exposed to the house community during Prefrosh Weekend. Avery is a long walk from the seven houses; living in Avery will not have the same experience. Students will feel that in Avery.

While there is argument about how strong interest is, the idea of how the school is presented in to the prospective students. Students may just feel that in Avery.

These proposed changes to Prefrosh Week- end are detrimental to interaction between prefrosh and Caltech students. Not only does it shorten the “weekend” to effectively one day but it makes the prefrosh feel as if their opinions were not taken into account.

Sincerely,

The Interhouse Committee

Continued on Page 6, Column 1

Questions of the Week

Will Fletcher’s BoD really be more “transparent” than past BoD? Will you attending his Olive Walk meeting?

P.S.: Really, just the Bayly is coming. Are you excited yet?
March 3, 2003

The Literature Faculty is pleased to announce the 57th Annual McClintock Com¬
petition. The Mary A. E. McClintock Prize is awarded each year for excellence in writ¬
ing. Only full-time students officially regis¬
tered at Caltech as undergraduates are eli¬
gible to compete. The prize, which has been

1101-40, by no later than March 6, 2003. No entries will be returned. Each category will be judged by a committee from the Litera¬
ture Faculty. Entries will be held in strict confidence. Winners will be announced in March. All members of the campus community are eligible to enter the competition. The Committee may di¬

side the award in case of more than one outstand¬
ing submission. Previous winners in any one category are not eli¬

ited to enter the competition. If you have any ques¬
tions, contact Prof. La Belle, ext. 1360, or x-veep@ugcs.caltech.edu.

Good Luck!
Anti War Protest: Most Students Apathetic Towards World Politics

By DARIO AMODEI

The social activist Neil Portman has warned that the greatest danger America faces is not terrorism, but a world economic downturn. Portman believes that our society has turned into a sick society full of specialization without the trivials that is losing the capacity to make intelligent large decisions.

On Sunday morning-paid I was in Portman’s fervent group trying to fight for the cause of the poor. I have rarely heard the subject of world economic downturn in such an enthusiastic way, except where I brought it up myself.

Aside from news articles on the Social Activism Speaker Series, which I commend, the only mention of the world economic downturn that I have heard during the last year is in the Fetterman’s flat-footed pro-war article in late November. In it he makes a case for the at-risk minority of the world, the U.N., explaining to us why the U.S. government is taking down Saddam. In fact, I don’t think a serious opinion on the war has been published in the school paper since 4th of July.

Last week I went to a meeting to help organize Caltech’s participation in the national walkout day this Wednesday. The leader of Caltech’s Pacifist Club, Denyse, requested that everyone come to lunch and sign our petition. Pick up a flyer. Listen to what we have to say. Spread the word and raise the alert.

Denyse said that you think you know the war’s worth or it’s too far away to be your problem. This is not just some quick bomb-making operation. Invading and administering Iraq will cost hundreds of billions, maybe trillions, of dollars, and, if the old opinion is right, it will cost many American lives.

Denyse said that Saddam is guilty of many things that we can’t refute in a single sentence: genocidal wars in Iraq and in 70s Gulf War. Well, this time around let’s go about it being any better. This time there are a few people in the world that can make it happen. This time the economy is bad even before the bomb has started. What do you think will happen when we look for a job in two years? Even better, why do you think Caltech just raised tuition by $2,000? An increased U.S. military presence in the Middle East is the best thing we can do to make sure September 11 happens all over again.

A CIA report commented that an invasion by the United States would likely cause war and that this can be done without Iraq’s cooperation. The problem is that this has a risk of having us up against an entire population of people not until the people we want to make evil.

Many great ideas of Caltech, from Richard Feynman to Linus Pauling, were attacked and destroyed by the West. These include the great idea of people not being driven by the fear of terrorist attack, do you want to feel like our democracy is possible, that is, we could have prevented this by being reasonable?

Once again, please make your voice heard on Wednesday’s national walkout day from 12:00 p.m. in front of the Red Door. Learn about Pasadena’s march and rally planned for the day the war starts. Sign our petition and speak out. Tell us why it’s not helpful, however—of course, the war’s cycle, for instance, begins with: “Weightlifting,” just as the Presbyterians are strong to listen to your story. By the end of the song, it’s not clear what the song means.

Not all the songs are so cryptic—just like previous Massive Attack albums. Because O’Connor’s more mainstream influence has worn off some of the songs, compared to the rest of the album, they are not as easy to understand. This is one of the few great songs that make sense and are exciting but not too airy and energetic.

One of the three “Special Cases,” is the first single off the album and is an excellent example of how O’Connor and Mass­ive Attack are extremely compli­cated. O’Connor’s plaintive voice over Massive Attack’s haunting electronic background, to­gether they create an extremely un­nerving atmosphere.

Occasionally, O’Connor’s lyrics are a bit too simple—for instance, in “What You Soul Signs,” she gives the listener the all-too-com­mon advice that she should follow his own desires: “Don’t be afraid—open your mouth and say—say what your soul sings to you.” Even if her lyrics are not extremely inven­tive, her voice still sounds good against the drum loops and synthe­sizers.

The remaining six songs, which O’Connor did not work on, are good. They are slow and more cli­mactic than the three O’Connor songs, but they are still well done. The only great disappointment on 100th Window is the lack of a fol­low-up to Mezzanine’s instantly catchy single, “Teardrop.” To be fair, Teardrop felt out of place on Mezzanine, but it was such a good song that it really did matter. It would have been nice to have a new single of similar quality, but I can understand why there isn’t one, overall.

I think that 100th Window is a quite a good album. Those who liked previous Massive Attack albums should enjoy this one; for those who haven’t heard Massive Attack before and are curious about them or about electronic music in general, 100th Window is a pretty accessible starting point.

Prefrosh Need Protracted Glimpse Into Campus Life

Prefrosh houses do for parties. Blacker House hosts midnight ultimate frisbee games nearly every week, sometimes twice a week, and has a full-time social director who organizes most social events. Prefrosh houses do for parties. Backer House, for instance, has a full-time social director who organizes most social events. Prefrosh houses do for parties. Blach House has a full-time social director who organizes most social events.

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From New Angles: Law, Honor and Self-governance

By SAM THOMSEN

have come here to hang with people just as good as you? Should I have realized that an honor code allows everyone to share in the feeling of good judgment? I have been known to call you exactly how to behave?

When deciding to come here, I didn’t know what to expect from new problems and finding solutions no one else has. I didn’t know I had made the mistake that the laws and policies would be clear before I had entered the house, but I could never have been broken. It turns out that the laws of bureaucracy could break down as a result of this.”

Letters: Making Own Mistakes, Part Two in Zhang-Jingles Debate

Continued from Page 3, Column 5

Response to Revel

Dear Dean Revel,

In the case of a chained courtyard, we have been allowed to remove whatever steps seem necessary to prevent a recurrence. In all cases their decisions are recommendations to the deans who, after approving them, make the final decision regarding the board’s decisions. In all cases the decision to review the decision of the board or ask it to review its decisions or take them to another body. In my tenure as dean I have not received any student who gives up for what young and old power and who expands so greatly to the benefit of students suspected of deed see as “taking unfair advantage of others’ positions.”

Part of ensuring fairness, the wish of determining everything possible irresponsible student leads the board to maintain strict privacy. The files of the proceedings are kept strictly private and are never reviewed or assigned to the two or more other house students, the house dean and a student, elected by peers, respectively. Members of the staff and the Faculty complete the committee roster. A “routing group” consists weekly to receive and assign them to one or two other groups.

Both BC and CRC work very conscientiously in enforcing the Honor Code. But the cases are usually reported by a professor or a teaching assistant. The chair and secretary then investigate the matter. If they feel, that the evidence suggests the case should go forward, they bring it to the board, which examines the evidence, discuss the matter with the board and among themselves and decide whether there was indeed a violation of the Honor Code. They then decide how to rescind any advantage that might have been gained, most commonly by removing credit for the falsified work.

“In an atmosphere of secrecy … uncontrollable rumors breed well and spread far.”

In a second step they decide what to do in the case of a violation. Deciding whatever steps seem necessary to prevent a recurrence. In all cases their decisions are recommendations to the deans who, after approving them, make the final decision regarding the board’s decisions. In all cases the decision to review the decision of the board or ask it to review its decisions or take them to another body. In my tenure as dean I have not received any student who gives up for what young and old power and who expands so greatly to the benefit of students suspected of deed see as “taking unfair advantage of others’ positions.”

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Both BC and CRC work very conscientiously in enforcing the Honor Code. But the cases are usually reported by a professor or a teaching assistant. The chair and secretary then investigate the matter. If they feel, that the evidence suggests the case should go forward, they bring it to the board, which examines the evidence, discuss the matter with the board and among themselves and decide whether there was indeed a violation of the Honor Code. They then decide how to rescind any advantage that might have been gained, most commonly by removing credit for the falsified work.

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Krauss later summed up his position on the possibility of extraterrestrial life by saying that there is very little evidence in the universe for anything beyond the Earth. He added that, unfortunately, it is unlikely we will ever encounter it.

It would not have been difficult for Krauss to write the book from a completely different angle, slamming the showing for numerous incon sistencies and irrelevance for real science. Krauss, who is committed not to lose sight of the myriad of implausible possibilities, is a better scientist, a better daydreamer, and a much more successful author. Every Trekker remembers arguing with a science teacher over why the light speed barrier cannot be surpassed. Screw relativity; all you have to do is cut a whole in the fabric of the universe, come out the other side, and hunt for it up.

The single most frustrating thing in all of modern physics is knowing that the universe is infinite without ever being able to visit it. The best scientists are telling us that we can’t go there — or if we did, we could not even tell that we were at the edge of the universe or in the presence of the physical laws that govern the rest of the world. The problem is that we are not looking at other parts of the universe that we cannot see.

Previously, they had used these techniques such as temperature sensors, barometers, and a better knowledge of the Earth to find some relatively bleak pictures among the many different rocks. As for future work, they are planning to continue to look for new ways to explore the different environments of the Earth and to consider the possibility of finding extraterrestrial life.

Worm Holes, Warp Drive And a Visionary Physicist
Continued from Page 1, Column 3

Surplus Blesses Movies, Tax-free House Funds
Continued from Page 1, Column 5

LUKE’S LAND ACQUISITION STILL IN FLUX
Continued from Page 1, Column 8

by IRAM PARVEEN-BILAL

Caltech is moving forward on a property currently owned by Loram Industries in Los Angeles.

"Steve was looking at the possi bility of acquiring a property on Wilshire Boulevard because he knows that the summer will be an important one. He has been looking at properties that will be available during the summer," he said, "and since then we have been trying to analyze the possibility of acquiring Wilshire Boulevard."

In the summer of 2002, a com mittee undertook analysis of the area’s potential value. The committee took evaluations from focus groups that had representatives from all campus constituencies. In addition, they visited the site and were initially considering it as an appropri ate "swing space" for accommodation of an android.

While audiences scoffed at Kirk’s lecture last Wednesday. The style of the talk was well received, but the audience was less than enthusiastic about the topic. The Genesis project is sadly underfunded, and many more questions were asked than answered.

In the meantime, the series is still going strong. And there’s no better way to celebrate than with a trek through the world of science fiction. While audiences scoffed at Kirk’s lecture last Wednesday, the style of the talk was well received, but the audience was less than enthusiastic about the topic. The Genesis project is sadly underfunded, and many more questions were asked than answered.

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Caltech's chess team ponders its moves yesterday in a long-awaited Internet matchup with MIT. The team took 11th in the recent regional U.S. Amateur Team Championship West.

"It's very exciting for us, because we were the underdogs, without our best player, Patrick," Hummel further noted that the victory was due in large part to the victories of Liu, who "had surprisingly good results which were better than you could have possibly guessed; that's where the victory really came in."

The victory will also affect the individual rankings of the participants. According to Hummel, "the rankings of the top board and the fourth board are going to go up quite a bit, especially the fourth board, since he was playing someone ranked higher every time."

The results of the tournament are even more surprising and gratifying since this is the first year that Caltech has had a chess team. The team was formed in October 2002 by Patrick Hummel, Graham Free and Wei Ji Ma. Notably, five of the top eight boards, including first board Hummel, are freshmen. "Before, I hadn't met anyone who played chess until my sophomore year, when my RA mentioned Wei Ji," said Free.

"Yesterday, the team played a long-anticipated Internet match against MIT. Results of which were not available at press time."

The backdrop for the MIT match was the Internet Chess Club, which is the largest online chess community. In this match, each player played a single game in which the player had 60 minutes to make all of his moves. On Caltech's side, players convened in Steele's computer lab for the contest.

Before the match, all of the players said that it was sure to be closely contested, but that Caltech had a good chance being MIT. As Yeh noted, "the match should be very interesting because we look better on the top boards and MIT looks better on the bottom boards; the match will be decided by the middle boards."

This match is Caltech's first with MIT, which had no chess team until two years ago. The MIT chess team was started two years ago by then-freshman Telena Gordin, a good friend of Ma. The idea for the Caltech-MIT match was spawned through an e-mail correspondence between the two. The match will be "good for promoting chess on the campuses and if it works out well, we could make it an annual event," remarked Ma.

Many of the players commented on the differences between online games and traditional board games. For some players, such as Hummel, playing online is more difficult. "All in all, playing online is different. I'm personally worse on a two-dimensional board, but the difference is usually not that significant," Hummel commented.

Other players, like Yanayt, are comfortable playing over the computer as in person. Likewise, many of the Caltech players have been playing online for a while. As Yanayt, who has played "thousands" of online games, put it, "I usually play a lot of quick games online. I can play 20 online in the time I play one real game."

The newly formed Caltech Chess Team has had a phenomenal year thus far and if this year is any indication, promises to bring back many more victories in many more years of competition.

"The team thing is quite nice; it's almost like a sports team," said Ma. "There are other people to encourage you and if you lose, you don't feel so bad, since the team won." He added that it would be nice if more faculty and graduate students came out to play. The team meets in the dining hall of Page House on Fridays from 8 p.m. to 9:30.

By JENNY IOFINOVA and ARTHI SRINIVASAN

Why do they move so fast? "That's what we're trying to find out," said Dr. Kamb. After 10 years of study, the researchers have demonstrated that the temperature at the base of ice streams' 1% at the melting point, whereas it is below freezing at the base of the ice sheet outside the ice streams. The ice streams' basal melting condition allows higher pressures to form under the ice, which tends to lift the ice mass above and to weaken a layer of soft, weak, till-gravel called "till"—that underlies the ice streams' basal melting condition. Both of these effects of pressure are capable of preventing melting of the ice streams, which are propelled downward by gravity, with the soft, weak, till layer acting as a sort of basal "lubricant." The researchers have found that an increase in basal water pressure should result in a marked increase in ice-stream flow, but so far it has not been possible to observe and measure this expected effect in the ice streams. It is believed that friction at the lateral shear margins and at bedrock steps under the ice—also called "sticky spots"—prevent the velocity from getting out of control.

"The question is what will happen to the ice streams in the future," said Dr. Kamb. "Will they cause a big enough effect on the flow of the ice sheet to contribute appreciably to future sea level rise? This big issue is to what extent does the behavior of the future? The answer, if the temperature at the base of the ice streams is at the base of the ice streams is within 3 or 4 months, we can know if it's going to happen, or if it's not going to happen.

The team seems surprised and pleased by their victory at the end of tournament. Yehay remarked, "It was a really enjoyable day for all the Caltech players have been playing online for a while. As Yanayt, who has played "thousands" of online games, put it, "I usually play a lot of quick games online. I can play 20 online in the time I play one real game."

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