



## BOC ADOPTS HANDOUT ON COLLAB. RULES

AIMS TO STEM 'RASH' OF CASES

### Plans to Lobby For Broad Faculty Acceptance

By MATTHEW WALKER

In the "hope that it will alleviate ambiguity," the Board of Control recently unveiled a new standardized collaboration form that allows professors to easily communicate their collaboration policies.

Presently, approximately one third of BoC cases are caused by collaboration-related matters. BoC Chair Galen Loram '05, who doubles as ASCIT vice president, "thought a lot of those cases could disappear" with the institution of this collaboration sheet, which he bills as a tremendous aid in helping people understand without doubt the collaboration policy for most classes.

A rash of cases since Loram was elected increased the urgency of creating this collaboration sheet. Seeking to alleviate some of the case load by preventing the honor code violations, Loram and BoC Secretary Harris Nover quickly implemented the idea that they had conceived before Nover was even elected; "it was silly that we haven't had it by now," said Nover.

After drawing up a draft of the sheet near the end of last term, *Continued on Page 2, Column 1*

## Schiff Confronts Critics At Local Peace Forum

By ADAM SEARS

United States Congressman Adam Schiff met with fierce resistance Sunday, March 30 as he presented his views on the war against Iraq at a peace forum at Pasadena City College. Around five p.m. local time, Schiff was ambushed by protesters in civilian clothing waving signs and fact booklets.

The event was orchestrated by anti-war leaders in the Pasadena area and demonstrates that the community still remains cohesive enough to conduct organized assemblies. Representatives from the local Jewish, Christian, Muslim, worker's union and school district congregated at the Lillian Vosloh Auditorium to deliver strong statements condemning the war. Also on the panel was Jim Ingalls, a Caltech professor and activist with the Afghan Women's Mission.

Ingalls was there to present nearly a thousand signatures collected by students during the recent anti-war demonstration on campus and in the weeks that followed. The petition expressed their concern that the technology they had helped to create was being used with "short-sighted belligerence" in the war against Iraq and called for a resolution condemning the attacks. Ingalls asked that Representative Schiff pay attention to their pleas, because "to criticize the war is to criticize the status quo" and a powerful statement indeed.

Many other panelists expressed outrage at the cost of the war and lamented the sad state of local education and health care systems. Pas-

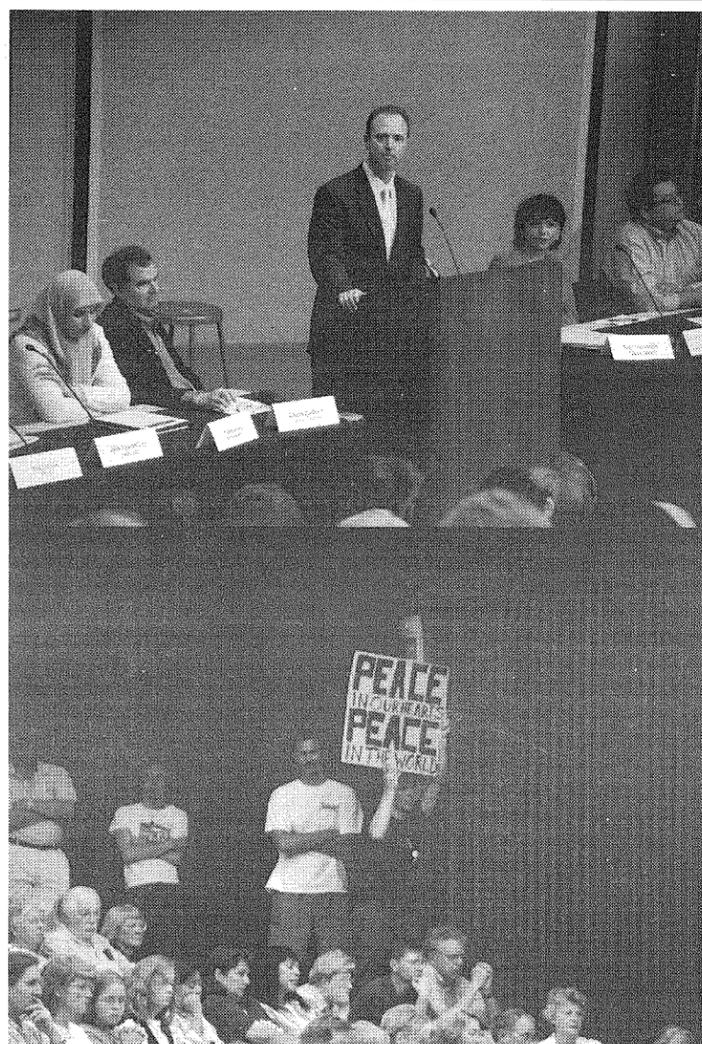
tor Ed Bacon claimed that America and its allies, the so-called coalition of the willing, were really just the "coalition of the bought" and that most other friendly countries operated without approval of their people.

Most controversial of all, however, was the congressman's own speech. Schiff began by echoing what most leaders had said earlier in expressing complete support for America's soldiers. He insisted that when thinking about the conflict with Iraq, we must consider when a war can be just.

He further noted that while war can be cruel, peace can be terrible as well. Citing the historic situations in Kosovo and Rwanda, he addressed the view of panelist Suzanne Berberian, who grew up experiencing the Armenian genocide in Lebanon. In addition, he asserted that "never has diplomacy deterred a tyrant."

The crowd's tolerance of his heresy soon grew so thin that when he stated his wish that our armed forces return home safely and swiftly—something that had drawn applause without fail throughout the night—the auditorium remained completely silent.

*Continued on Page 2, Column 3*



D. Korta/The California Tech

U.S. Congressman Adam Schiff gives a controversial speech at a peace forum held at Pasadena City College March 30.

## Sacks Explores Origins, Foundations of Creativity

By LEA HILDEBRANDT

What is creativity and where does it come from? This question was the subject of this year's William and Myrtle Harris Distinguished Lecture in Science and Civilization, presented by Oliver Sacks on March 17. The lecture, entitled "Creativity and the Brain," was held in Caltech's Beckman auditorium and started at 8:00 p.m. It was so well-attended that Oliver Sacks admitted he was intimidated by the size of his audience.

Dr. Sacks opposes the mystical and romantic view of creativity. He believes that creativity needs to be demystified and instead be seen as what it is: a natural aspect of the nervous system. Dr. Sacks reassured the romantics in the audience that "this does not make [creativity] less wonderful; it makes it even more wonderful."

Further, since creativity is an aspect of the nervous system, it must be something universal. Thus, it is incorrect to view it as something that some people have and others do not. Instead, we all possess creativity in different areas and to different degrees.

Next, Sacks discussed ways to find out about creativity. From his point of view, the most effective way we have right now is to examine products of creativity as well as the processes that led up to these products. Michael Faraday's notebooks, for example, are very helpful for this type of investigation since Faraday recorded all of his

thoughts, plans, experiments and observations. Other scientists like Ampere, however, only recorded their results. Their notebooks are not very helpful in examining creativity.

Dr. Sacks himself has been trying to enhance his understanding of creativity by examining how people adapt to neurological diseases. There seems to be a pattern that people with neurological diseases develop special talents. For example, people that are born deaf usually have a very keen sense of sight, while people that are born blind often have a very good sense of touch.

Another example is presented through people with autism. Dr. Sacks here mentioned the specific example of Steven, a boy from England. Steven grew up like a normal boy until he started developing autism at age two. When he was six years old, Steven stunned his teacher and everyone else by drawing a picture of London Bridge. Nobody that knew him at that time knew of this extraordinary talent of his. Steven published his first book when he was ten years old and now, at age 24, supports a family.

Yet even though Steven has this extraordinary talent, he is indifferent to his drawings. Another interesting fact is that his drawings have not changed since he was six years old, even though he visited art school for several years.

*Continued on Page 8, Column 1*

## MIT Professor Impugns Planned Ballistic Missile Defense Program

By ROBERT LI

In front of a packed Ramo Auditorium last Wednesday, Theodore Postol, Professor of Science, Technology and National Security Policy at MIT, gave a talk in which he blasted the Bush administration's plans to implement a ballistic missile defense system by September 2004. The plan, which was authorized in by President Bush last, is according to Postol "unworkable for fundamental scientific reasons."

During his 45-minute presentation, Dr. Postol's main focus was the Raytheon exoatmospheric kill vehicle, the "warhead" part of the interceptor missile. Essentially, Dr. Postol argues, the kill vehicle will never work because of the fundamental limitations of the space environment and of its sensors.

In particular, since the kill vehicle

must find its target using a relatively low-resolution infrared sensor, it will never be able to distinguish between the real warhead and decoys such as a painted mylar balloons. This is because the infrared seeker, rather than relying on shapes, must instead rely on brightness and temperature oscillations to identify targets. In the space environment where interception occurs, it is relatively easy to create decoys that have the same infrared signature as the real warhead thus making identification impossible.

Furthermore, because the administration wants to set up the system by September 2004, "just in time for the elections" as Dr. Postol put it, a crucial X-band missile tracking radar will not be built. Instead, an inadequate radar left over from the 1970s will be used. This, combined with the system's many other

flaws, including unreliable rocket boosters, guarantees that it will not work.

At the end of his talk, Dr. Postol turned away from technical explanations and into more political matters. He alleged that the Ballistic Missile Defense Office under Lt. General Kadish, which oversees US missile defense efforts, has persistently and deliberately lied about the system's technical failings and rigged tests to prove success where there was none.

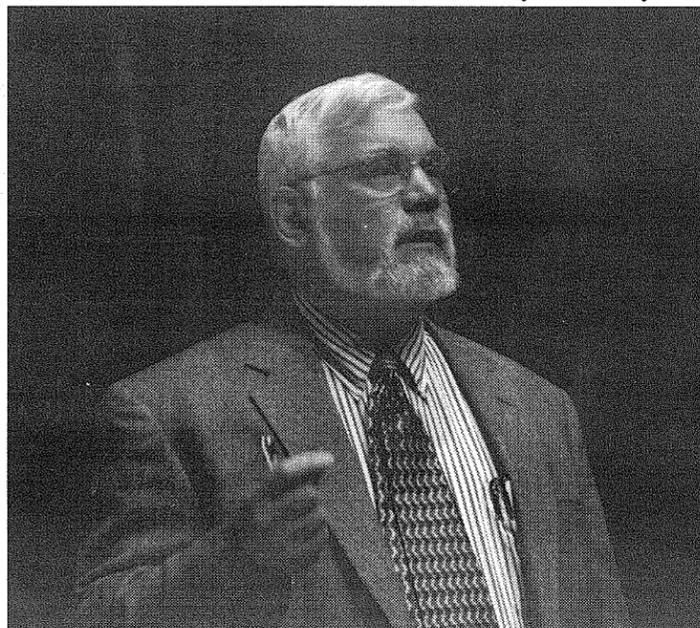
Showing an internal Pentagon document as evidence, Dr. Postol pointed out that after the initial test in 1997 failed to show the kill vehicle's ability to distinguish between the real warhead and decoys, the Ballistic Missile Defense Office switched decoys to those that were distinguishable. In another instance, Lt. General Kadish let slip on TV that a failure to properly deploy a mylar balloon decoy resulted in the kill vehicle selecting the wrong target. According to Postol, this suggested that the kill vehicle had been preprogrammed to hit a target of certain brightness and that the failed decoy had confused the seeker.

All of this, Postol concludes, is a "failure of leadership at the highest levels" and the decision to go ahead with the development of such a flawed system represents the attempt of the "most cynical administration in the history of the United States" to win reelection next year.

Following the presentation Dr. Postol opened the floor to questions. Many audience members lined up and at the end several were unable to speak due to time constraints.

One question was that if the current system doesn't work, what type of anti-ballistic missile system will. To this question, Dr. Postol sug-

*Continued on Page 2, Column 4*



P. Dormiani/The California Tech

In his talk last Wednesday, Dr. Postol cites "fundamental scientific reasons" for why Bush's Ballistic Missile Defense System is unsound.

# Renovated Dabney to 'Reclaim Beauty'

By AMEERA CHOWDHURY

Renovation of Caltech's Dabney Hall of Humanities begins in April 2003 with generous funding from the Ahmanson Foundation. Adjacent to the university's renowned chemistry, math and physics departments, the renovated Dabney Hall will house an enlarged faculty, new classroom space and room for enhanced humanities-oriented extracurriculars.

The ambitious renovation project will reaffirm Dabney Hall's position as home to Caltech's humanities. Once again, the humanities faculty will be collocated in Dabney Hall. Both the humanities library and treasure room will return. As in the past, the treasure room will be used as a multi-purpose space.



K. Fitch/The California Tech

Renovation of Dabney Hall, home to Caltech's humanities, begins this April.

Restoration plans also include new student facilities such as an expanded Writing Center, classrooms and a lecture hall.

The renovations will "not only help reclaim the beauty of an extraordinary building [but also] invigorate the Humanities for students through space enlivened by study, research, lectures and performance," said Caltech President Dr. David Baltimore.

Caltech hopes also that a renovated Dabney can propel humanities research. Since 1929, the division has expanded its research to include history of science; U.S. cultural history; U.S., European and Chinese demographic history; literature of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; philosophy of science; and philosophy of cognitive science and neuroscience.

The department's specialty in connecting the sciences with the humanities is attracting talented scholars, such as Caltech's recently hired full professors, John Brewer and Mordenchai Feingold, to the Institute. Dr. Brewer, a distinguished British historian and Dr. Feingold, a leading expert in 17<sup>th</sup>- and 18<sup>th</sup>-century science, are two examples of the faculty who will conduct research in a newly renovated Dabney Hall.

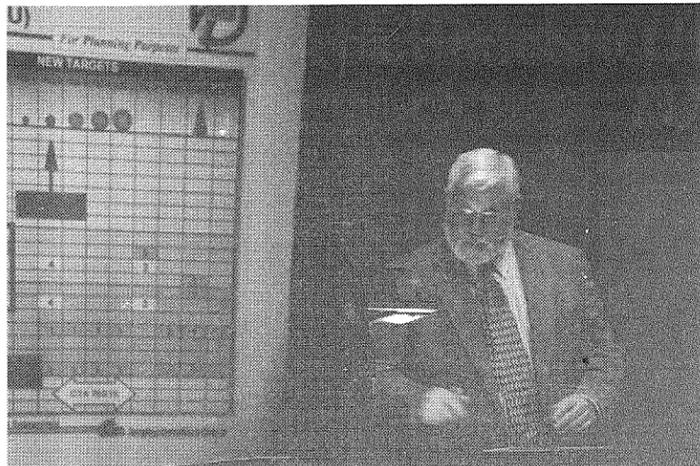
The grant supporting Dabney Hall's restoration is a characteristic benefaction of the Ahmanson's Foundation, which concentrates its funding on cultural projects supporting the arts, education at the collegiate and precollegiate levels, medi-

cine and delivery of health care services, specialized library collections and programs related to homelessness. The vast majority of the foundation's philanthropy is directed toward organizations and institutions based in and serving the greater Los Angeles community.

Dabney Hall, like the science buildings around it, was designed by the eminent architect, Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue and continues Caltech's tradition of Spanish, fused with Gothic, architecture. Vaulted ceilings and abstract decoration, inspired by Mayan designs, accent the building's long central hallway. The east wing, often used as performance space, is flanked by a garden and completes Dabney Hall's "L" shape.

Finished in 1929, Dabney Hall is the original home of Caltech's humanities department. As the institute's needs developed, however, the building began to be used for a variety of campus research and administrative purposes. Offices replaced the original library, treasure room and lecture rooms and the world-class humanities collection was relocated to the central library.

The humanities division's steady expansion resulted in some faculty moving their offices into the newer Baxter Hall of Social Sciences, constructed in the '70s. The humanities department was dispersed among a number of buildings.



P. Dormiani/The California Tech

Theodore Postol uses evidence from the Pentagon to show the technical failures of the exoatmospheric anti-ballistic missile program.

## Missile Defense Skeptic Postol Dubs Bush Plan 'Unworkable'

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

gested a boost phase system where a ship or airplane sits off the coast of a rogue state and intercepts ballistic missiles as they are launched. According to Dr. Postol, his analysis, which he made while working at the Pentagon, suggests that this method will have a high probability of success.

Still, Dr. Postol continued, this system is not being built because it cannot threaten Russian or Chinese missiles. Dr. Postol then remarked that it is these countries' missiles

that the administration wants to counter and not the "nonexistent" threat from rogue states like North Korea. North Korean missiles, according to Dr. Postol, are nothing more than upgraded V-2's from World War II, a 50-year-old design. The North Koreans furthermore have neither the missile nor the nuclear warhead miniaturization technology to hit the United States.

Another student opined that it doesn't matter if the system works or not: its goal is to start an arms race with China and bankrupt it just as the Soviet Union was bankrupted by then-President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative of the '80s. Dr. Postol answered that from his visits to Chinese missile development labs, the Chinese military is fully aware of the current system's limitations and has no plans to enter a ruinous arms race.

Finally, an audience member asked Dr. Postol whether the US should pursue a missile defense system at all. Surprisingly, Dr. Postol said, "if a robust system could be developed then it would be a useful thing to have." Dr. Postol then made clear that he opposes the current system not because he doesn't believe missile defense shouldn't be attempted or is impossible. Rather, it is because the current system doesn't work and won't work.

Dr. Postol has been a prominent critic of the \$60 billion exoatmospheric anti-ballistic missile program since its initial development during the Clinton administration. The system is on track for a limited deployment of 10 interceptors in Alaska by the end of next year. President Bush gave the authorization on December 18, 2002 and in the process tore up the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with the former Soviet Union.

## Petitioners Chide Schiff For Ignoring Concerns

Continued from Page 1, Column 3

It was a silence that would soon be shattered, though, when he went on to allege that the war against Iraq wasn't about a desire for oil. Almost instantly, Schiff found himself bombarded by mortars as the crowd booed him to smithereens. A couple somewhere in the crowd sniped at him and it took a joint strike by several of the organizers to bring the situation under control again. Some in the audience were visibly annoyed by the interruption and two participants left the building during the few minutes of chaotic accusations and sneering.

In his conclusion, Schiff maintained that the true cause of the war was the "post-Cold War failure of finding a base on which world peace can be built" and that while some would say that democracy is incompatible with Iraq, "we must not have such low aspirations."

Dario Amodei '05, the author of the petition and member of the Peaceful Justice Coalition (PJC) at Caltech, disapproved of the outbursts that plagued the latter half of Schiff's speech. He remarked that "all political discourse should maintain civility," but that he understood "how frustrating it is to have your heartfelt pleas fall on deaf ears."

He also thinks it is critical that students think through the ethics of

their studies and research. "Protest at Caltech is especially important because of the connection of science with the military." While most research may be harmless enough, "working on a project with direct military applications has serious ethical issues." America has prospered largely due to the influence of institutions like Caltech and "we ought to feel ethically responsible [for] the actions it takes in our name."

Kevin Bundy, an Ay 1 teaching assistant who is affiliated with PJC, attended the forum and enjoyed the open discussion that capped the evening. While he regretted that there was some unconstructive rudeness throughout Schiff's speech, he found the open microphone speakers to be "for the most part polite and articulate," despite their passionate appeals.

Bundy's one major complaint with Schiff's performance was that he neglected to address any of his constituents' concerns presented during the forum, failing even to acknowledge their arguments at the end of the open-microphone session. But perhaps, others speculated, Schiff just realized that no matter what he said, he would not be able to gain their stamp of approval.

## 'Collaboration Sheet' Strives to Unify Policy

Continued from Page 1, Column 1

Loram and Nover presented it to the Faculty Board, where they met a "positive" response. The faculty promised to try it and the Faculty Board distributed it to professors and recommended that they use it this term. At the end of the term, the BoC is going to review how well it worked. The goal is to create a uniform handout that is flexible enough to be useful to the widest range of courses possible.

Loram and Nover stressed that the collaboration sheet is not for all classes, however. Most lab courses and humanities courses are different in nature from the majority of Caltech classes; there, it is clearly evident whether one worked alone on an essay or lab assignment. But most courses are based on sets and need to have rules about what reference materials can be used on them.

To get feedback on the collaboration sheet, the Board of Control representatives are going to attend division meetings. They will also use the opportunity to convince professors to use the sheet. Student feedback will also be sought on the sheet. After a reworking at the end of the term, the Board of Control plans to push hard next year to make it mandatory for most classes.

Another problem that Nover hopes the collaboration sheet will solve is the discrepancy between what a teaching assistant says and the actual policy. Since TAs sometimes don't go to lecture, they are unfamiliar with division policy about collaboration. Both Nover and Loram emphasized that the final word on whether to use the sheet lies still with the professor.

"Not being able to ask is not an excuse," added Nover. They emphasize that it is always advantageous to ask ahead about anything students don't understand about collaboration policy. Nover related a story from Ma 108 when he was taking a final that allowed any sources, except other people. He wanted to use a friend's notes, but was unsure whether this was allowed. The new collaboration sheet will clear up as many such confusing issues as possible.

The collaboration sheet is divided into sections based on types of references, such as texts, solution sets or notes. There is then a column for quizzes, homework and exams that indicates whether each reference can be used. Biology Professor Henry Lester is using a version of the collaboration sheet this term in Bi 1.

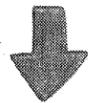
### CALTECH CONVENTIONAL WISDOM WATCH



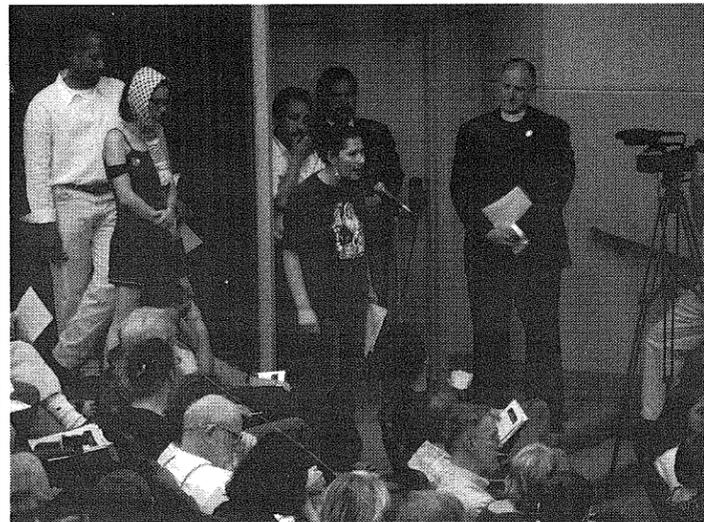
**MADD as a Hornet?** No! Residents were filled with Joy when well-minded students came to help them out. Y'd they do it? They were simply caron' for the community.



**Less Than Peaceful:** A noble cause, but one that could've done without the name-calling, despite the congressman's schiff from the crux of the event. In presenting his petition, at least, Ingalls was less wilder, more polite.



**Missile Defense:** Its supporters are ballistic, declared Ted the apostol. Stationing a ship off North Korea, he suggested, is a much better plan to cure the il of Kim Jong and his ICBMs.



D. Korta/The California Tech

Attendees of the peace forum held at PCC the Sunday before last share their views and pose questions to panelists on the war in Iraq.

### The California Tech

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125  
editorial desk: (626) 395-6153  
advertising desk: (626) 395-6154  
editorial e-mail: [tech@ugcs.caltech.edu](mailto:tech@ugcs.caltech.edu)  
advertising e-mail: [business@tech.caltech.edu](mailto:business@tech.caltech.edu)

VOLUME CIV, NUMBER 21

Tammy Yee Wing Ma Managing Editor  
Vi Tuong Tran Business Manager

Kevin Carl Bartz News Director  
Circulation Chris Crabbe

Leo C Stein Commentary Editor  
Tearsheets Tim Tirrell

The Tech is published weekly except during vacation and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers.

Letters and submissions are welcome; e-mail submissions to [tech@ugcs.caltech.edu](mailto:tech@ugcs.caltech.edu) as plain-text attachments, including the author's name, by Friday of the week before publication. Sorry, the Tech does not accept anonymous contributions. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for any reason. All written work remains property of its author.

The advertising deadline is five p.m. Friday; all advertising should be submitted electronically or as camera-ready art, but the Tech can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising inquiries should be directed to the business manager at [business@tech.caltech.edu](mailto:business@tech.caltech.edu). For subscription information, please send mail to "Subscriptions" or call (626)-395-6154.

# What I Did on My Spring Break: Doughnuts, Alumni, Club Funds

By TOM FLETCHER  
The Grand Club Survey

The results from the survey are in! The 286 responses gave us the clearest picture of the student body yet. While distribution between the houses was skewed (Fleming: 22, Blacker: 60), we'll work to incorporate that into the data. To be realistic, it will take a while to mine the data for valuable information. While I do not know how we will act on these findings, but they will definitely inform our decisions for the rest of the year. Since it generated the most responses by volume (and also the most vitriolic), I focused my energies on the doughnut data.

One hundred respondents, 34.97%, take part in Friday morning doughnuts and 209, 73.08%, said they participated in midnight doughnuts. I'll comment on my interpretation of this data below, stickin' to the facts right now.

Which changes suit you with regard to Friday morning doughnuts? Responses: 15% without opinions; 38% for keeping it the way it is; 2% for switching to Winchell's; 4.20% for switching to Noah's; 6.6% for switching to a mix of the two; 21.7% for abandoning all Friday doughnuts; and 7.7% for making Friday doughnuts a club activity.

Consolidating these responses, 50.8% expressed some desire for food from ASCIT on Friday, 29.4% do not want doughnuts supplied by ASCIT or at all and 15% had no opinion.

These responses break down by house in an interesting way.

Of those 41 persons unaffiliated, affiliated but inactive or declining to state, nine had no opinion, 17 voted to keep the system the same, five voted to switch to Winchell's or to Noah's, eight to abandon and two to shift Friday doughnuts to a club activity.

Of those 59 in Blacker, four had

no opinion, 49 voted to keep the system the same, two voted to switch to Winchell's or to Noah's, three to abandon and one to shift Friday doughnuts to a club activity.

Of those 23 in Dabney, three had no opinion, five voted to keep the system the same, five voted to switch to Winchell's or to Noah's, eight to abandon and two to shift Friday doughnuts to a club activity.

Of those 20 in Fleming, three had no opinion, four voted to keep the system the same, two voted to switch to Winchell's or to Noah's, 10 to abandon and one to shift Friday doughnuts to a club activity.

Of those 39 in Lloyd, eight had no opinion, 11 voted to keep the system the same, seven voted to switch to Winchell's or to Noah's, seven to abandon and six to shift Friday doughnuts to a club activity.

Of those 31 in Page, five had no opinion, three voted to keep the system the same, eight voted to switch to Winchell's or to Noah's, 11 to abandon and four to shift Friday doughnuts to a club activity.

Of those 19 in Ricketts, three had no opinion, five voted to keep the system the same, three voted to switch to Winchell's or to Noah's, six to abandon and two to shift Friday doughnuts to a club activity.

Of those 43 in Ruddock, 10 had no opinion, 23 voted to keep the system the same, six voted to switch to Winchell's or to Noah's, four to abandon and none to shift Friday doughnuts to a club activity.

The two largest groups of respondents were also the only two groups that muster 50% support for the current doughnut scheme and barely 50% in Ruddock's case. I don't think the large turnout by these groups was a coincidence given the rather ominous language I used in sending out emails regarding the survey. Making the assumption that each sample is representa-

tive of its group—possibly not valid, though Blacker did show some amazing uniformity in voting—we can weight the responses

by house size. Using the online directory, we get the following groups sizes: Blacker, 127; Dabney, 119; Fleming, 125; Lloyd, 138; Page, 182; Ricketts, 130; Ruddock, 168; unaffiliated, 57.

We have no idea, however, how many are "affiliated, but not active" and how many have multi-house membership. I'm going to assume every house has about the same number of members from other houses; I think only Page's number suffers from that. There are 941 undergrads and the combined total of house memberships and unaffiliated members is 1046, so the extra 100 house memberships hopefully won't skew the data too much.

We can extrapolate using our assumption of group voting behavior to weed out the exuberance and apathy of some groups, to estimate the campus' opinion as a whole. I worked out the number of people in each category weighted by house size.

By my calculations, there are 176.6, 17%, with no opinion; 354.9, 34%, for keeping the present system in place; 166.6, 16%, for switching to Noah's or to Winchell's; 264.6, 25%, for abandoning the system altogether; and 85.3, 9%, for switching doughnuts to a club activity.

I'm personally not sure yet what these numbers mean or what actions we should take, especially since there's so much more data to look at. There is a number of general questions about the survey data beyond doughnuts that we need to consider. Is group voting a reasonable assumption for analyzing the data in this survey? Does it matter what the people who did not participate in the survey think?

Anyway, for those curious, only

*Continued on Page 5, Column 1*

# Gulf War II, Presence In Mideast Mistakes

Hold Bush Accountable for Pre-war Assertions

By DARIO AMODEI

When I sat down to write this article, I felt a little bewildered. I had in mind another fiery polemic against the war, but anything I might say seemed nauseatingly futile. When I last wrote in this newspaper, the war might have been halted. Now it is too late for that. It is no help to whisper in the ears of dying victims on both sides, "We were wrong to do this and here are twenty reasons why." In the face of the bare tragedy itself, there is little comfort in assigning blame. Nevertheless, I have decided to share my thoughts.

It is precisely because the tragedy is so immediate, so terrible, that we must work with all urgency to avoid repeating it. Even if we cannot stop the war, we can raise such a stir that our leaders think twice before starting another one. If that fails, we can vote them out of office. The only way to do that is to speak the truth

and make sure it is still ringing resonantly in the public's ears on election day. It is crucial, therefore, that we keep a very close watch on what happens diplomatically and militarily in Iraq. We must remember what Bush said before the war and observe how the conflict and its aftermath reflect on his claims. We must hold him accountable for the discrepancies that we are sure to find. It is only thus that we can correct our mistakes.

I write, then, not to stop the war, but in the hope that we may learn from it. First and foremost, we must pay attention to the type of government that eventually gets installed in Iraq. President Bush is certain that our invasion will bring democracy to the Middle East. However, in Afghanistan, the last country where we exercised regime change, the result has been less positive. The poorly funded provisional govern-

*Continued on Page 5, Column 3*

# Letter: Alum Agitated: Prefrosh Mistreatment

Importance of Prefrosh

I'm a Caltech alumnus—Ph.D., electrical engineering, 1969. Just so you know my bias—I love the place. I've been actively involved with the Alumni Fund for 24 years and with Undergraduate Admissions Support for over 10 years. In spite of my love for Caltech or maybe because of it, I've complained to people when they did things I didn't approve of. I've talked to and written letters to various people at Caltech, including the president and trustees. I was almost fired from the Alumni Fund after sending a flaming email

in response to an action I disapproved of. I'm concerned about the things that happened at pre-frosh weekend last year. I've already spoken with, through voice and email, Steve Koonin, Bob O'Rourke, David Baltimore and others about last year's pre-frosh weekend. I do not agree with everything they said. Now it's time to let you know how one alum feels about the weekend. I ask you to behave better this year and to consider the consequences to yourself, Caltech and the high school students. I don't have the whole story, but I heard that the high school students were treated rather

*Continued on Page 5, Column 1*

Certified mover

Certified shaker

Certified no more mac & cheese

Certified acceleration

Certified rush

Certified freedom

Certified bring it on

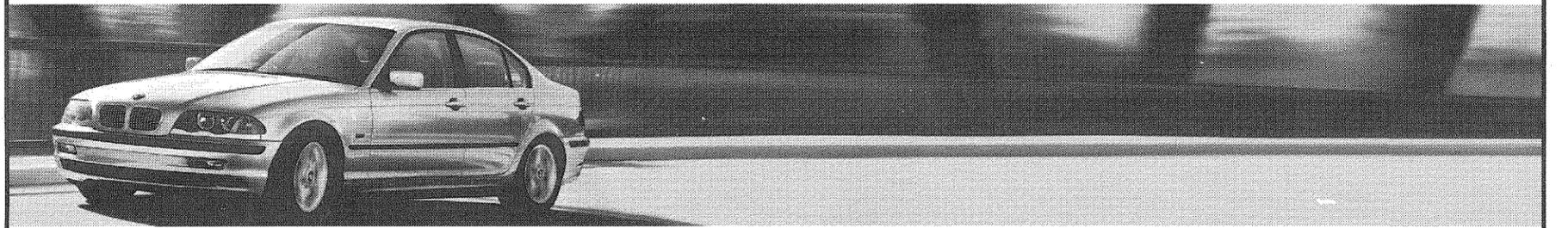
Certified Pre-Owned BMW

BMW Certified Pre-Owned

bmwusa.com  
1-800-334-4BMW



The Ultimate Driving Machine



Certified only at an authorized BMW center.

Get warranty protection\* up to 6 years or 100,000 miles. Get flexible leasing and financing options. Get pure BMW.



search up-to-date, extensive inventory at [bmwusa.com](http://bmwusa.com)

\*Protection Plan provides coverage for up to 2 years or 50,000 miles (whichever comes first) from the date of the expiration of the 4 year/50,000 mile BMW New Vehicle Limited Warranty. See participating BMW passenger car center for details. For more information, call 1-800-334-4BMW, or visit [bmwusa.com](http://bmwusa.com) ©2003 BMW of North America, LLC. The BMW name and logo are registered trademarks.



**ASCIT Minutes**

April 2nd, 2003, 12:00 p.m., Olive Walk  
 Present: Joanna Cohen, Tom Fletcher, Kim Hiscox, Kathryn Hsu, Galen Loram., Jeremy Pitts, Anna Sczaniecka, Andrea Vasconcellos, & Corinna Zygourakis. Guests: Clinton Conley, Barbara Green, Julia Ma, Kim Pependorf, Alex Sheive, Leo Stein, & Others.

Agenda: 1. Parag Bhayani and Kevin Costello from the Caltech Quiz Bowl came to the BoD meeting to talk about their club. Quiz Bowl's budget is typically \$3,000-\$4,000 and they receive most of their funding from hosting college and high school tournaments. Kevin and Parag request \$300 for Quiz Bowl as well as additional funding if they make nationals. No decision is made at this time. 2. The Moore Gift Committee will consist of three undergrads and three grads. Over 20 undergrads have expressed some interest so interviews will have to be held. The interviewing committee will consist of three IHC members, three BoD members, and one member of both. 3. Officer Reports/Weekly To-Do List: Tom reported on the status of the student body at the Alumni Board Meeting. The alumni asked a number of questions about student life and shared some of their concerns with Margo Marshak, which included the removal of the Ricketts firepot. It also happens that an alumnus who passed away left \$2,000,000 to be used for house social events. On another note, Margo Marshak responded to the ASCIT and IHC letter that suggested ways in which to improve student life. Among other things, she said that Caltech would no longer use the fertilizer that smells like manure. Galen continues to BoC people at a high rate. The freshmen keep cheating. Bad Frosh. Kathryn STILL needs an ARC Rep from Page. Sign-ups for ARC Secretary and ARC Reps at Large will go up on Friday, April 4th. The Student Faculty Conference brochures will also be distributed next week. As of right now, ASCIT formal will be held on a Fri. or Sat. in late May. On another note, an indie rock band called *We Are Scientists* contacted Kim. They said that they want to play at Caltech for free. *We Are Scientists* is going to play in the RF courtyard on Monday, April 14th. Jeremy says the IHC is working out the details of the prefrash scavenger hunt. On another note, Jeremy says that there has been a lot of bad refereeing at interhouse soccer and basketball games. One idea is to set up a referee training program. Certified referees would get \$5-10 per game for their trouble. Corinna says that next Wed., April 9th, there will be a Club Funding informational session that will tell students how and when they can receive funding from various organizations. The meeting will be held in the Winnet Center at lunch. On another note, Corinna says that club interviews are scheduled to begin on Fri. at 7:00 p.m. and run until about 2:30 a.m.. The meeting will be in 080 Moore. More than sixty clubs are scheduled to show up, so time will be tight. The BoD still needs to determine whether they will fund political organizations or alcohol. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Anna Sczaniecka  
 ASCIT Secretary  
 (for a more complete set of ASCIT minutes please visit [doughnut.caltech.edu](http://doughnut.caltech.edu))

**ARC Positions.** The Academics and Research Committee is selecting Representatives-at-Large and the ARC Secretary. These positions are open to anyone from the undergraduate student body, and will be selected by interview with the house ARC reps and the ARC chair during the week of April 14th-18th. Sign ups will be placed outside the Coffeehouse at 4 p.m., Fri.,

April 4th, and be taken down at 4 p.m., Fri., April 11th. Questions can be sent to your house rep or to the ARC Chair at [kathrynh@its.caltech.edu](mailto:kathrynh@its.caltech.edu).

Reps-at-Large will need to:  
 -Have strong opinions about the academics at Caltech  
 -Bring up any academic concerns they are aware of  
 -Take care of off-campus endeavors (such as collecting nominations for ASCIT Teaching Awards from off campus residences, getting feedback from students unaffiliated with any houses)

-Interview students to appoint to campus-wide committees (Academic Policies, Core Curriculum, Curriculum, Educational Outreach, Library, Exchange Programs and Study Abroad)  
 -Assist in selecting recipients of the ASCIT Teaching Awards -Assist in any other projects the ARC decides to pursue

The ARC Secretary will need to:  
 -Keep minutes for (almost) weekly meetings  
 -Send updates to the Doughnut Team for the ARC website, or place the updates on the website themselves  
 -Assist the Chair in writing articles for the Tech regarding subjects like ASCIT Teaching Awards, or significant changes in academic policy/courses

**Boston Area Undergraduate Physics Competition.** Enter for fun, fame, and cold hard cash! Top prize is \$300!! This four-hour exam will consist of six challenging problems. The only prerequisites are frosh-level physics and math - the problems will require little expertise, but lots of ingenuity! For info and registration, see <http://liquids.deas.harvard.edu/oleg/competition/> Previous years' problems are available on the website. Repeat Caltech's 2001 and 2002 triumphs over MIT, Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, and UC Berkeley! Questions? Contact [inna@caltech.edu](mailto:inna@caltech.edu), [charlene@caltech.edu](mailto:charlene@caltech.edu), or [mschulz@theory.caltech.edu](mailto:mschulz@theory.caltech.edu).

**The Dance Troupe has three dance classes for the spring term.** All classes meet in the Braun multipurpose room. **Advanced Beginning Hip-hop**, Instructor: Collette Sibal, Wed. 9:30-10:30 p.m.; Starts April 2, 2003; Trial class fee \$5, Caltech students full term fee: \$30 (only \$3.75 per class!). Non-Caltech students full term fee: \$40. **Intermediate Jazz**, Instructor: Collette Sibal, Tues. 9:30-11 p.m.; Starts April 1, 2003; Trial class fee: \$5, Caltech students full term fee: \$30. **Intermediate Ballet**, Sat., 1-2:30 p.m., Starts April 5, 2003; FREE!

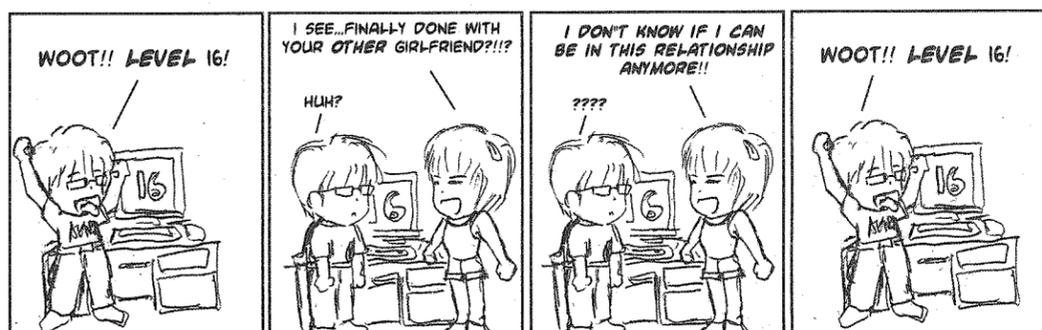
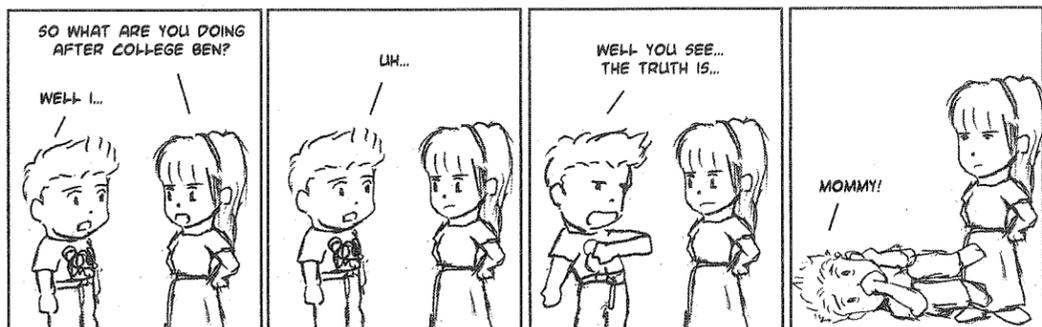
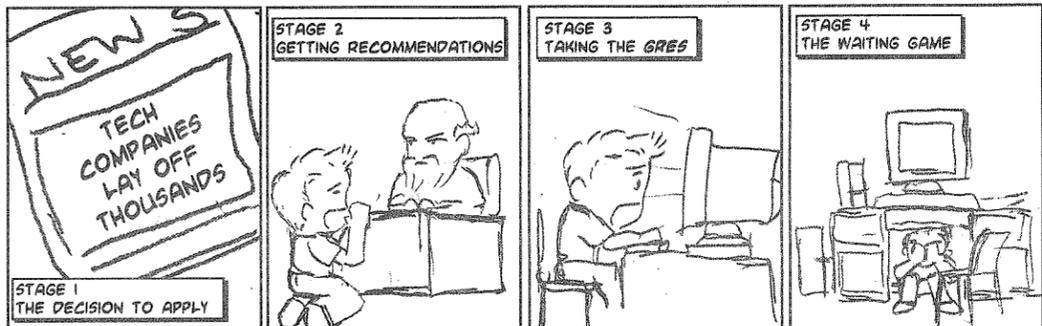
Sat., April 12th is **Yuri's Night, The World Space Party**. It is a global celebration of space born right here at Caltech/JPL. This high energy nightclub styled event is built especially for the Space Generation- those people who have only seen a Saturn V launch on MTV. Come meet other space people from around LA and celebrate our future in space with 60 other cities all around the planet. VIP reception before with Matt Golombek discussing Mars Landing Sites. Main event 9 p.m. at the Famous Space Encounter Restaurant at LAX featuring house and trance DJ's and a runway fashion show. Visit [la.yurisnight.net](http://la.yurisnight.net) for more. Admission is \$20. Proceeds to benefit the Children of the Columbia Crew.

"April," said T.S. Eliot, "is the cruelest month" so it is fitting that April is also **Mathematics Awareness Month!** The April 2003 issue of *Notices of the American Mathematical Society*, celebrates the occasion with the article "Artful Mathematics: The Heritage of M.C. Escher." H.W. Lenstra, one author of "Artful Mathematics," lectured on "Escher and the Droste Effect" at Caltech on Mar 7. If you missed this talk, visit <http://escherdroste.math.leidenuniv.nl>. For more information on Mathematics Awareness Month, see <http://mathforum.org/mam/03/>.

**CRIPPLING DEPRESSION**



**THE GRAD SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS EXPLAINED**



**BAMBOO TEA HOUSE**  
 Tea as a way of life  
 700 E. Colorado Blvd.  
 Pasadena  
 Across from Vroman's Books  
 (626) 577-0707

**Youth Director Wanted!**  
 Native English speaker, also fluent in Mandarin or Taiwanese. Jr. & Sr. High youth group. Friday night & Sunday morning - paid!  
 First Taiwanese Presbyterian Church of Pasadena  
 Interested? Call Chris (323) 721-8174

**Navarro's Creations**  
 Fine Hand Woven Jewelry  
 Jewelry Repairs and Special Orders  
 Yamilly (Emilly) Bautista-Navarro  
 Designer  
 18 North Mentor Avenue  
 Pasadena, California 91106  
 (626) 577-2077

**Does your old health plan fit the new you?**  
 If you are in-between jobs, have just gotten married, had a child, or experienced another significant life change, make sure you have the health coverage that fits the new you. With Blue Shield of California's Deductible PPO Plans you can choose from among four annual deductible levels, so you're certain to find a plan that meets your needs and budget. Call today to compare coverage and see how affordable a Blue Shield Deductible PPO Plan can be: **(626) 792-4219**

Authorized Agent  
  
 Your Life. Your Shield.™

**Polenzani Benefits**  
 3452 E. Foothill Bl., #514  
 Pasadena, CA 91107  
 626/792-4219  
 e-mail: [tom@polenzanibenefits.com](mailto:tom@polenzanibenefits.com)  
 CA License # 0D15121

© Registered mark of the Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Shield plans. Deductible PPO Plans are not available to individuals 65 or older.  
 A12047-SMPA

**COMPARE TEXTBOOK PRICES!**  
 • Search 24 stores with 1 click!  
 • Save up to 70%  
[www.bookhq.com](http://www.bookhq.com)  
  
**Earn \$1,000 - \$2,000 for your Student Group in just 3 hours!**  
 College fundraising made Simple. Safe and Free.  
 Multiple fundraising options available. No carwashes. No raffles. Just success! Fundraising dates are filling quickly. Get with the programs that work!  
  
 Your Trusted Source for College Fundraising.  
**888-923-3238**  
[www.campusfundraiser.com](http://www.campusfundraiser.com)

**STUDENT TRAVEL**  
**start packing!**  
 LONDON For **\$321**  
 EURAIL PASSES From **\$249**  
 HIP HOTELS From **\$18**  
 (domestic and international)  
 \*  
**explore north america**  
 USA ■ CANADA ■ HAWAII  
 backpacking, cruises, tours and more

Fare is round trip from LAX. Subject to change and availability. Tax not included. Restrictions and blackout apply.

**don't miss your big BREAK**  
 54 South Raymond Ave. (626) 793.5595  
 pick up your complimentary, premiere issue of **BREAK** magazine at your local sta travel branch.

[www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com) **STA TRAVEL**  
 cst# 1017560-40  
 ONLINE >> ON THE PHONE >> ON CAMPUS >> ON THE STREET

## Caltech Community Advice: Glomming

By LIBIN ZHANG

For weeks, *The California Tech* has debated on whether or not to have an advice column to answer all the critical questions facing the Caltech community.

I am constantly being surrounded by girls and I can never get any work done. What should I do?

Matt Walker

Dear Matt,

You, like many freshmen, seem to be suffering the phenomenon of "glomming." Don't you hate the feeling of having unwelcomed visitors of the opposite sex stealthily implanting themselves inside your room every time the door is open?

If you have more than one visitor, they can be directed to engage each other's attentions. If you are alone with only one person, I sure hope you have decent smalltalk skills. One way to put your admirers to good use is to ask them to 'help' you with your homework, something they would be glad to do. You must realize, however, that your glommers consider every second spent in your presence an investment and you may eventually have to do something in return. If one of your glommers is a few grade levels above you or has a car or both, you should start dating her. I know all the attention must be hard on you, but don't worry, Matt, you'll get used to it. Besides, freshman

year is almost over and the focus of these girls will be redirected to a new crop of freshmen soon, so cherish the attention while it lasts.

What exactly is compassionate conservatism?

Sitting in the Center

Dear SitC,

According to Craig Kilborn, compassionate conservatism means asking you how you like your Jell-O before flipping the switch. This works better if the person is mentally retarded, a Canadian citizen who was never informed of his international rights and/or innocent.

Have more questions? E-mail [libin@ugcs.caltech.edu](mailto:libin@ugcs.caltech.edu).

## Fletcher's Transparency: Poll Results

Continued from Page 3, Column 3

7% responded that there should never be an ASCIT Formal. Kim Hiscox has been working hard to set up this year's and it will be in late May. The survey data does reveal a rift between those who feel that it is valuable and want it heavily subsidized and those who feel it is worthwhile but do not think ASCIT should be subsidizing each person who goes, which amounts to approximately \$30 to \$40 per person. How we distribute the cost of formal this year is something we will consider soon, but I can assure you that it will be held.

### Whom I Met With Last Week

I attended day-long Alumni Association board meeting the week-end before school started. I participated in the subcommittees that look at student affairs and admissions and presented to the alumni what the student body has been up to and our plans. They were very excited by the amount of work that has gone into the Student-Faculty Conference. They also expressed concern about Prefrosh Weekend and who is being admitted and choosing to come here, issues I'll address next week.

Their paramount concern was the Ricketts fire pot situation. The alumni had mixed feelings, but were universally concerned about how the issue escalated through

miscommunication. During Margo Marshak's presentation, they had a number of tough questions for her dealing with the issue. Ricketts seems to have learned its lesson, with no illegal fires since then; hopefully the administration learned a valuable lesson about how to handle a situation.

I also met with Margo Marshak during the week. We spoke about the Student-Faculty Conference and the Workload/Morale survey results, still being prepared by the committee for release. I gave her the 180 pages of text and the results of the numerical questions. We also spoke about the new *U.S. News* rankings for graduate schools, in which Caltech dropped to seventh in Engineering, with MIT number one. *U.S. News* lists only the top three in sciences online; we got third in applied math, behind MIT and NYU; second in chemistry, behind Berkeley; first in geology; and we tied for first in physics with MIT. We did not rank in the top three in biology, computer science and mathematics.

The decline in prestige of Caltech's engineering program is a big concern among the administration, especially since many undergraduates take graduate-level classes and are involved in research in the engineering fields; the only subdivision to get a spot in the top three was the third place by aerospace. Hopefully, the Student-Faculty Conference will help.

I feel as though I saw all of you on Friday night at club interviews. We interviewed all 60+ clubs for about eight hours. The funniest presentation was for *Fishing Quarterly*, far and away. Expect the next issue of their magazine by Prefrosh Weekend. My vote for best presentation goes to APSU. We'll be setting up our budget next weekend and things will really get rolling!

### Moment of Zen

Based on the advice of one of my history professors last term, I picked up the re-release of the "Goldberg Variations" performed by Glenn Gould. My taste for anything over classical music is pretty much a strict preference, but this album sneaked through. It's a very elegant, beautiful piece of music.

Ciao,

Tom Fletcher

P.S.: This week's title is dedicated to a true fan. Thanks for the love.

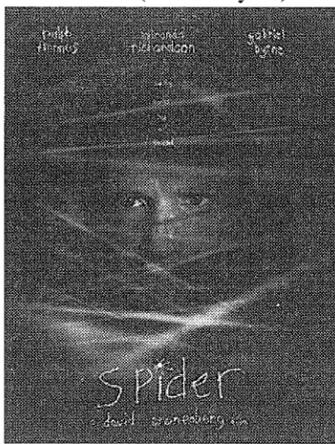
## Ralph Fiennes Shines In Cronenberg's *Spider*

By TERRY YEN

We saw him this year as a mid-dling psycho prop to Anthony Hopkins in *Red Dragon* and J. Lo's lovesick poster-boy bachelor in *Maid in Manhattan*, two roles that seemed a tad bit on the lighthearted, frivolous side for Ralph Fiennes, an actor whose history includes intense films as *Schindler's List* and *The English Patient*. However, with the advent of David Cronenberg's artful *Spider* comes to the re-entry of Fiennes to the craft of acting as he beautifully triumphs the dark, demanding role presented to him.

Fiennes plays the schizophrenic Dennis 'Spider' Cleg, nicknamed by his mother for his infatuation with webs and other figurative forms of entanglement. We first meet Spider, just off the train from the mental asylum, making his halting way to a London halfway house run by a gruff matron (Lynn Redgrave), his new residence not far from his boyhood home.

Cleg has been hospitalized since the age of ten, when he believed he saw his father (Gabriel Byrne) mur-



Courtesy of [www.spiderthemovie.com](http://www.spiderthemovie.com)

der his mother (Miranda Richardson) and bring home a tart (also Richardson) to take her place. Whether or not this actually happened, Cronenberg leaves you questioning up to the very end.

Working with a script written by Patrick McGrath, who adapted his own 1990 novel, Cronenberg does what he does best in all his psychodramas: he plays with our minds and psyche, warping and twisting them to make us get in touch, down to the fundamentals, with his protagonists. We are always left questioning what we see, the 'reality' we are presented with.

Carried out in a slow (painfully so on occasion) and methodical pace with a twist of enchanting eeriness, Cronenberg gives you *Spider* with Fiennes never giving comprehensible dialogue or tidbits of explanatory narration. Instead, we follow Fiennes around, wallowing in his childhood memories, mumbling incoherently, scribbling madly in his little notebook. We are given an image of his writings, which look like nothing but hieroglyphics.

What we are presented with are flashbacks. *Spider* imagines himself back in his home, watching his younger self (played with amazing and touching maturity by Bradley Hall) interact with his beloved mother and pub-crawling father.

It is an exquisite evocation of haunting anguish and dreadful sexual anxiety, with Richardson morphing from mother to whore to jailer. It is *A Beautiful Mind* times one thousand in mysteriousness and darkness. With indelible performances by Richardson and Fiennes, *Spider* definitely seizes you in its web.

## Alumnus Warns Students: Treat Prefrosh as Guests

Continued from Page 3, Column 5

poorly last year. Some were made or encouraged or cajoled, to eat from a trough. I also heard that there was a "wall of horror," with simulated blood oozing from it. In addition, some Caltech students told the high school students some pretty horrifying stories about the Caltech administration and faculty; Things like the faculty being more interested in research than in teaching and that the administration doesn't care about the students. There's certainly some truth to these claims. More about this later.

The result of all of this is that 10 of the 11 people admitted from New Jersey, where I live, rejected Caltech. This includes five or six people who had already decided to go to Caltech, but changed their minds after going to pre-frosh weekend. I have no information about people from other states.

The high school students are on campus as guests of Caltech and their Caltech student hosts. They should be treated as guests—with dignity and respect. By volunteering as a host, you accept the duty and responsibility of treating your guests decently. If you don't agree with this, you shouldn't host the high school students. Regardless of what you think of Caltech, mistreating the high school students is unacceptable. I've

spoken with some of the Caltech administrators and faculty and I've read some things in *Caltech 336* and *The California Tech*. I agree with some of the negative things that were told to the high school students last year. I wish they weren't true and I'm trying to change some of them, but I have no magic up my sleeve. You certainly have a right and an obligation to tell the high school students what you think of Caltech—and they want to know what the place is really like. I ask only one thing: be fair and honest—to the students and to Caltech. Don't blow things up out of proportion. Some people seem to think that, since Caltech paints a rosy picture of the school, they have to go to the opposite extreme and paint a dreary picture. The high school students are smarter than that. They know that Caltech is painting a rosy picture. They expect to hear the truth from you. They may discount what you say a little, but not nearly as much as they discount what Caltech says. The truth is bad enough. It's not necessary to make it sound worse than it is. Finally, I encourage you to treat your guests decently and to be fair and honest with them.

Thank you,  
Ted Grinthal

## Citizens' Understanding of Admin.

Continued from Page 3, Column 5

ment has lost control of much of the country and is struggling to keep roaming warlords at bay. The United States has done little to support it and apparently has no further plans to.

In the case of Iraq, the U.S. will more likely try to construct an undemocratic puppet state. Any Iraqi democracy would be strongly anti-American and I doubt Bush and Rumsfeld are willing to tolerate that. While they could always surprise us by allowing an anti-American democracy to form and quietly withdrawing from the region, the initial signs are not encouraging. Although nations outside the coalition, plus Britain and the U.S. State Department, want the U.N. to be in charge of reconstruction, Rumsfeld and the Pentagon are advocating a provisional government in which Americans head all 23 government ministries. It is important that we informed citizens keep track of who runs the new Iraqi government and what concrete steps, if any, are being taken to make its elections legitimate. We must ask: is Iraq any more free than it was before? Have its people been given stability and safety or has one oppressive government merely replaced another?

Another issue to carefully watch is the fate of weapons of mass destruction. Iraq's failure to use chemical weapons could mean two things and both would decisively refute the administration's rhetoric. It could mean that Saddam has no such weapons, in which case the Bush administration is guilty of aggressive war and reckless disregard for the truth. Bush didn't say he thought Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, he said he knew Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. If it turns out that he lied to the American people to start a war, he

should answer for his actions in an international court of law.

Of course, it could also happen that Saddam has some weapons but decides not to use them. But if he fails to use chemical weapons when his own life is in danger, his resolve and potency as a threat to the world have been greatly exaggerated. It does not matter that his restraint is probably for the purpose of public image. If Saddam can show restraint for public image even when the troops are at his door, he can obviously be coerced in peacetime to cooperate with a thorough and exhaustive weapons inspection process.

If Saddam does use chemical weapons on U.S. troops, Bush and Rumsfeld will pounce upon it as vindication of their claim that he is a menace to the world. In fact, it would establish nothing of the sort. While a great tragedy, it would merely show that like most world leaders, Saddam is willing to use unscrupulous means when his life is in danger. The desperate, defensive use of chemical weapons on combatants does not substantiate the Bush-Rumsfeld horror fantasy that Saddam would give biological or nuclear weapons to Al Qaeda for terrorist attacks on U.S. civilians. Indeed, Iraq's use of chemical weapons would highlight the fact that the resulting deaths were preventable and that those weapons could have been ferreted out by a prolonged inspection regime with genuine U.S. backing.

If no chemical weapons are discovered or if Iraq becomes an American puppet state of questionable freedom, the media will not rush to publicize the embarrassing truth. That is why we must do it ourselves. It is our job, as citizens of an ostensible democracy, to connect the dots and make our leaders answer for what they have done. It

is unacceptable to make a reckless accusation, invade a country and shrug casually when the facts prove that accusation wrong. We should be enraged at Colin Powell's "proof" that Iraq tried to get uranium from Nigeria that turned out to be a forgery. We should be incensed that Tony Blair's dossier on Iraq's link to Al Qaeda was copied from an out-of-date graduate thesis.

It is because we let such lies pass unchallenged that U.S. foreign policy has historically been so reckless and violent—think of the U.S.S. Maine and the Spanish War or the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and the Vietnam War. I refuse to watch, as the same obscurantism is tolerated in silence today. I will not stand for such flagrant insults to my intelligence.

Though the prospect of screaming the truth to a deaf nation may seem quixotic, there has been encouraging progress on the local level. The last four weeks have seen a fruitful activism on our campus. At least six articles on the war have been published in the *Tech*, five of them opinion pieces. On March 5 we had an event that was both a protest and an open forum discussion. Both sides spoke and both had something useful to say. A thousand people have signed the Caltech anti-war petition and the Pasadena City Council failed by only a single vote to adopt a resolution opposing the war. I hope that this activism will continue for the next two years, that all of us will follow up on our concern over this conflict. Then I hope that, on November 5, 2004, the dangerous fringe characters who hijacked America are overwhelmingly removed from power, as a lesson to the next presidents that free people will not tolerate aggressive war.

# April Fool's Day And Digital Music Piracy

By JEAN-PAUL REVEL

These days everyone—well, not everyone, but lots of people—go around with a little gray cloud hovering over them and the melancholy spirit of war spreading over them. The threats may be real, the war may be justifiable, the war may even be necessary, but it is a war, with people being hurt and killed and maimed and starved and displaced and frightened and all kinds of other not so good stuff. In the midst of the gloom it was kind of a shock to find out what the staff of the embassy of the United States in Stockholm was doing on February 2, 2000.

Ah! The year two thousand, when we were fresh out of fears about millennial crashes of the world's computers and with it, the breakdown of our society. All those terrible fears had dissipated by then, with people a little red-faced from having been such alarmists or congratulating themselves for having weathered that turning point without too many hitches. So what were they doing in Stockholm on that cold winter day? They were writing about how we, in the U.S., celebrate holidays.

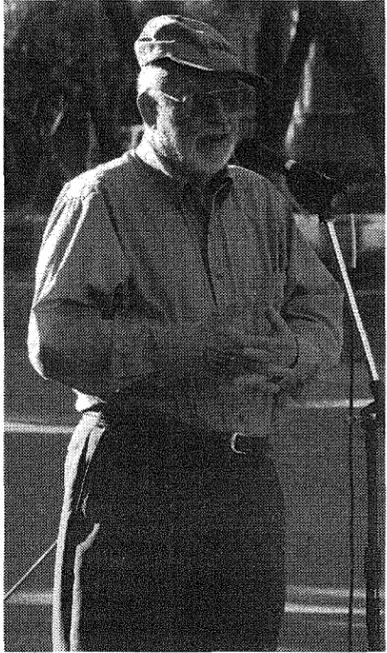
The celebration of the day was—guess what!—April Fool's Day. They wrote "The American humorist Mark Twain," just to make sure that everyone knew who they were talking about. Mark Twain said, "The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year." Ha! Speak for yourself, Mark. On the other hand maybe he did have something there.

The article is obviously written in the times before France decided not to be part of the coalition. It relates that the modern connotation of the day had its origin in XVI<sup>th</sup>-century France, when it was the new year which was celebrated on April 1. In 1562 Pope Gregory made his calendrical news, with New Year moved to on you know when. With our renewed interest in Iraqi affairs it is interesting to note even to this day, April 1 is still the Assyrian New Year! You know... springtime, flowers blooming, all the fruit trees in bloom and grass growing making the goats happy.

Does that not make more sense than a celebration of New Year in the winter, except of course for the need of good parties to warm up? To come back to France, not everyone got the news that the date had changed or may be did not believe the change and so went on celebrating April 1, so says the article. Again, any excuse, I suppose, to have a party. In any case today our leaders think that we can't trust the French... Never mind the Ff, freedom fries forever!

Now lets see: how did I get there? Oh yes. One of the practical jokes mentioned as part of April Fools Day celebrations in the states is putting salt in the sugar bowl, which is "not a nice trick to play on a stranger"; another is about college students who set their clocks an hour behind, so their roommates show up to the wrong class—or not at all. Not at Caltech they don't.

But they do other strange things at Caltech—sorry, we do strange things. One can express surprise at those benighted Frenchmen who did not believe that Pope Gregory meant business, but here we are with a well established and I believe reasonably functional honor code and yet there are some things that apparently many of you guys don't believe are covered by the code.



Among other items, I am talking about the copyright laws. None of you, I am sure, would walk into a warehouse outlet, stuff a bunch of CDs under your coat and walk out. You just would not. It would be stealing. And among other things you would be depriving the hard working artists from earning their daily bread. Is it not equally reprehensible to use programs like Kazaa to distribute music or movies that are not yours? The Kazaa people make no bones about it: it is used to download music for free.

Well, yes, you'll say, vaguely embarrassed, lowering your eyes and uneasily shifting your feet. How come it is any of your business, dean? What does sharing music with my friends have to do with the Honor Code? Perhaps I can make it clear by excerpts of the letter we receive from people or companies who believe their copyright has been infringed upon: "Dear California Institute of Technology: We believe your service is hosting the following site(s) on its system. The site(s) are providing the following sound file(s)... We have a good-faith belief that the above-described activity is not authorized. You should understand that this letter constitutes notice to you that this site operator may be liable for the infringing activity occurring on your server. In addition, under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, if you ignore this notice, you and/or your company may be liable for any resulting infringement... Very truly yours."

As you can tell it is not just you who might be inconvenienced but Caltech as a whole may end up buying you those records and a whole lot of other things besides. So stop it already. Turn off your peer-to-peer program and read the Caltech Copyright policy. Just type "copyright tutorial" in the box on the home page, select "the basics." Another excellent site, which can be reached by clicking on "using copyrighted material," is the U. of Texas "crash course." And this you can copy if copy you need, to my and to the "Intellectual Property" people's heart's content!

If you need convincing that this is serious business, please take note: The Recording Industry of America just filed lawsuits last Thursday, April 4, 2003, asking that students at Princeton, Rensselaer and Michigan Tech shut down their sites and pay damages of \$150,000 for each song on their sites.

See you later... oh, what the heck...

A bientot

# Positive Improvements to Student Life

Vice President of Student Affairs in Response to ASCIT and IHC

By MARGO MARSHAK

I am writing in response to your memorandum, dated February 18, 2003, answering my call for suggestions for improvements to student life on campus and to thank you for your preliminary list of suggestions. I will repeat your suggestions and reply to each one in the order in which it was presented.

Establish an endowment for each of the undergraduate houses, using interest from the Moore Fund. Each house would have a claim to the interest on \$100,000 that they may use on improving student life within the house. This solution creates a way for student houses to do more on a local level to improve quality of life. The additional benefit of this is that projects funded from this money will inevitably improve the physical condition of the houses, reversing their decay.

I share your interest in finding ways to improve the quality of life in the houses and to improve their physical conditions and I look forward to working with you towards these ends.

The Gordon and Betty Moore Fund and The Honorable Shirley M. Hufstetler Fund have been established as an endowment to enhance the quality of undergraduate and graduate student life at Caltech. An advisory committee will review proposals and make recommendations to the President concerning which proposals to fund and in what amounts. I would suggest, if your idea meets the guidelines for requests for these funds, that you submit a proposal to the advisory committee once it has been constituted.

Have administrative decisions published in the *Tech*. Many students are unaware of administrative actions and the motives behind such actions. A greater knowledge of such actions would improve communication on campus, a boon to both parties.

This is a good idea. Since many people make decisions that affect students directly or peripherally, we should consider together what levels and types of decisions would be of interest.

Cancel the proposed revision to the damage fund. The way that the damage fund currently works is effective for many reasons. It gives incentive for students to treat the houses with a great deal of respect and allows them to use the money left in the damage fund to improve on other aspects of life. If this system is revamped and planned, there will no longer be that incentive to be respectful of house belongings and damage will most definitely increase.

Since I received your memorandum, Tom Mannion has met with the members of IHC to discuss re-

visions to the damage fund policy. Have all of professional bartending costs be paid for by Student Affairs and budget such costs for many years into the future, in light of changes to the alcohol policy.

We recognize that bartending is expensive and we are looking for ways to bring down the cost. In the meantime we are continuing to share the cost of bartending.

Include student input during the future restructuring of Student Affairs.

I am always interested in your ideas for improvements to student services at Caltech. Please feel free to share them with me at any time.

Act to require attendance of faculty at the Student/Faculty Conference. The hard work of the students in planning the conference is for naught if there are no ears to hear our grievances. While this falls out of the purview of Student Affairs, we trust that you can try to influence the proper parties.

*"Many students are unaware of administrative actions and the motives behind such."*

It is not the practice of the Institute to require faculty attendance at any event; however, the Faculty Board has suspended classes on the day of the Student/Faculty Conference in order to encourage both student and faculty participation. In addition, the members of the Faculty Board have been urged to attend the conference themselves and to promote the attendance of their colleagues. Also, Provost Koonin has written the faculty to urge them to attend the conference. You could assist by personally asking individual faculty members to attend.

Lobby the faculty to enforce guidelines for the following:

- No homework given during midterms or finals week (unless no midterm or final).
- No tests outside of given test period
- Give extensions for house events
- Returning midterms to students before drop day
- No scheduling of classes during sports.

For the most part, these policies already exist; they are simply not enforced.

Provost Koonin has offered to write to the faculty to urge them to follow these guidelines, with the exception of extensions for house events. Concerning no tests being given outside of given test periods, we assume that you mean during

the weeks of midterm and final examinations.

Use fertilizer near the undergraduate housing that is not noxious. Every time that the campus is fertilized, students are miserable while inside their own house due to the terrible fumes from the fertilizer. It would be very simple to select a fertilizer that does not smell, even if it is only used near the houses, where students primarily reside.

Vice President for Business and Finance Al Horvath has agreed to the selection of a new fertilizer for the grounds near the undergraduate houses.

Update students on progress of new plans for the student houses and the student activities center. The students previously involved in these decisions have graduated. Students are anxious about the future of campus and would like to be informed of progress and be able to give their feedback, by a permanent mechanism.

Before the Institute develops firm programmatic and architectural plans for the student houses and a campus center, it needs donors. At the present time, there is no progress to report, except to say that both projects represent campaign goals. Of course, we will need student input when we have the opportunity to renovate/construct these facilities.

Maintain Houses. Many things in the houses are deteriorating due to age and often the problems are not fixed because maintenance says "the houses will be torn down soon, it's not worth it for us to fix it." The houses are not being torn down any time soon and the use of things (showers being the most egregious example) is required in the meantime.

The Houses are deteriorating due to age and they also are deteriorating due to hard use/abuse. Safety issues are already being addressed, however, the Houses require deferred and ongoing maintenance plans tied to a realistic financial plan. Tom Mannion has agreed to chair a committee of students, faculty and staff to develop such a plan.

Create a damage/theft fund for summer students. Every summer, visiting students damage the undergraduate houses. Valuable house items are frequently stolen. If the summer students paid money to a damage/theft fund, that money could be used to guarantee that the quality of the house is not permanently damaged during the time in which the temporary residents are present.

This is a good idea and we will assign this suggestion for discussion to the committee previously mentioned.

# Campus Health Education Update

By JANE CURTIS

As the Health Educator on campus, I develop health-related programs that improve your overall Caltech experience. This past year, programs have included stress management, reproductive health and cooking lessons. I'm also a member of the Student Morale and Workload Committee, apart of the ASCIT Student-Faculty Conference that will take place on Wednesday, April 16.

A couple of months ago, I thought it would be fun to take a few of the anonymous questions posted on my health board, located across from my office in the Student Activities Center, Room 64, and answer them

in a forum so even more teachers can learn what I do and find out what's on some of their classmates minds.

I have received numerous comments about increasing the availability of healthy food on campus and this was one of the first items that the Health Education Student Advisory Council and I began to work on. The twelve or so undergraduate and graduate students have provided valuable input and direction in developing a campus-wide food survey. We are fine tuning it, but believe it will yield good data on what students' food choices are. We are pleased and very appreciative of the healthy choices the C-store has recently added. You will find more vegetables, Colby cheese and sand-

wich meat among the new items. I am continuing to work with Dining Services to increase the protein and whole-wheat grain selections.

The cooking lessons with the graduate students have been well attended and recently, I have received inquiries about duplicating this program in the undergraduate houses next academic year.

Right now, I'm beginning to plan for next year and am presently canvassing campus for ideas for new programs. Meanwhile, lots of students have visited me during my drop-in counseling hours; everything we talk about is confidential. My health board also continues to be a source of free handouts, brochures and condoms. Go See Jane!

# Lightman Named Writer-in-residence

By MARK WHEELER

Merging science and art is a tricky task, but one well worth the effort, notes the physicist, science writer, essayist and novelist Alan Lightman. As he wrote in a recent essay in the New York Times: "When the science is integrated so that it is part of the human drama, part of the beauty and mystery of human existence, then science and art have achieved a perfect harmony."

Lightman, who has taught both physics and writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will give two public presentations during the week of April 7 as writer-in-residence at the California Institute of Technology. He will begin the week as a panelist in a Science Writing Symposium on Monday, April 7, at four p.m. in Baxter Lecture Hall, free and open to the public.

On Tuesday, Lightman will give a seminar on "The Physicist as

Novelist," in which he will consider similarities and differences between how scientists and artists understand the world. The seminar will take place at noon in 315 Baxter Hall on the Caltech campus. The event is free and open to the public, but is primarily aimed at faculty across academic disciplines.

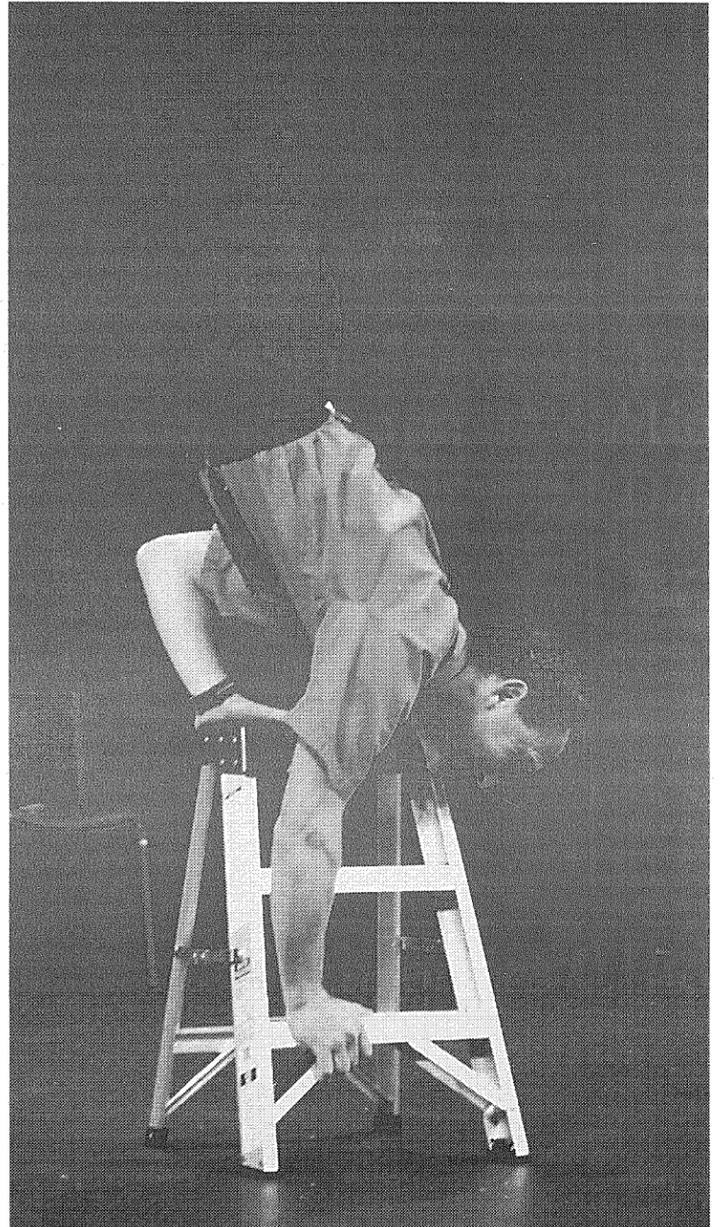
Then on Thursday, Lightman will read from a selection of his writings, including his new novel, *Reunion*, to be published this July. The reading, also free and open to the public, will take place at eight p.m. in Dabney Lounge.

Lightman earned his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Caltech in 1974 and focused his scientific research on gravitation theory, the structure and behavior of accretion disks, stellar dynamics, radiative processes and relativistic plasmas. His research articles have appeared in numerous peer-reviewed journals. For his contributions to physics, he was elected a fellow of the American Physical Society in 1989 and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science the same year.

Lightman's novels include *Einstein's Dreams* (1993), *Good Benito* (1995), *The Diagnosis* (2000) and the forthcoming *Reunion*. He has also published six nonfiction books and many essays in magazines such as Harper's, the New Yorker, Atlantic Monthly and the New York Times Review of Books. In 1996 Lightman was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The writer-in-residence program is part of Caltech's Words Matter project, which is intended to foster appreciation of writing in its many forms and to offer undergraduates opportunities for close contact with accomplished writers. Words Matter is coordinated by Steven Youra, director of the Hixon Writing Center.

# THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN



P. Dormiani/The California Tech

Garry Krinsky shows off a scientific impossibility as part of his *Toying With Science* show last Saturday afternoon in Beckman. *Toying With Science* explored the scientific principles of gravity and leverage, simple machines, human imagination and more.

# NeuStar CTO Mark Foster Visits Campus, Will Speak

By IRAM PARVEEN-BILAL

Sponsored by Caltech's entrepreneur club, Caltech alumnus Mark Foster '82, senior vice president and chief technology officer of NeuStar, will be speaking today in 306 Thomas at four p.m.

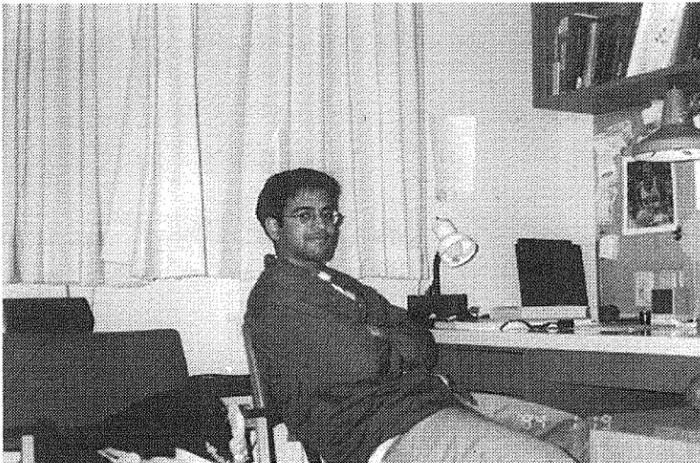
Foster graduated from Caltech in 1982 with degrees in physics and computer science. He has over 25 years of entrepreneurial experience in developing innovative solutions to industry problems, with inventions such as a local number portability, voice-controlled intelligent network service node platform, a new computer language for developing telephone switching systems software and the first SS7-to-IP signaling gateway, developed in 1990.

As CTO, he is responsible for developing advanced services and strategic technologies for NeuStar which manages routing for all the 300 million phone numbers in North America, through all 5000 carriers, routing virtually every one of the two billion calls dialed in North America daily.

The event is the brainchild of Caltech's Entrepreneur club, founded in 1994. With a grant of several thousand dollars from alumni and sponsors and the motto of promoting entrepreneurship and business at Caltech, the club continues to encourage student-initiated business activities.

In addition to hosting Foster, the club's latest activities include participation in the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual NASA/JPL High-Tech Small Business Conference on March 4 and 5, billed as a great networking opportunity for small businesses to learn about local subcontracting opportunities. Later that month, the group took an active part in the local Technology Transfer Conference.

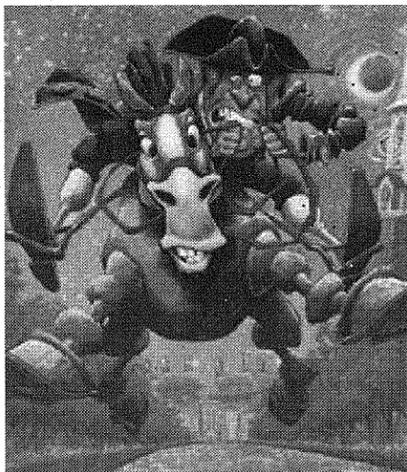
Presently, graduate student Amit Kenjale is looking over candidates for "several thousand dollars in grant money available for student-initiated businesses and entrepreneurial activities," which he and the club hopes will spur entrepreneurial ambition on campus.



Courtesy of A. Kenjale

A graduate student and member of Caltech's entrepreneur club, Amit Kenjale will host NeuStar CTO Mark Foster Monday for a talk and is looking to give grants for student entrepreneurial activities.

## "The Prefrosh Are Coming!!!"



**April 24-26, 2003**

**If you are interested in volunteering for Prefrosh Weekend please contact your house representative.**

**Kids Summer Camp Info**

**Caltech**

**Health & WorkLife Fair**

**Friday, April 11th**

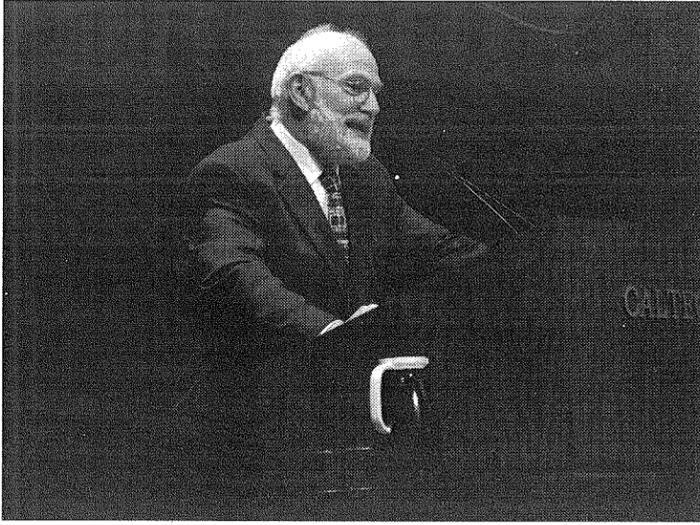
**Winnett Quad**

**11am-2pm**

**GET BALANCE!**

Sponsored by Caltech's Human Resources, Staff & Faculty Consultation Center and the Caltech Y

The Health and WorkLife Fair is open to the entire Caltech Community and will feature vendors and items that will contribute to a better sense of health and wellbeing. For more information contact [worklife@caltech.edu](mailto:worklife@caltech.edu) or call x8360.



D. Korta/The California Tech

Dr. Oliver Sacks shares his views on creativity at this year's Harris Distinguished Lecture in Science and Civilization on March 17.

## Without Ignoring Psychology, Sacks Links Creativity to Brain

Continued from Page 1, Column 2

Dr. Sacks used this example to point out the difference between fantasy and imagination. First, he quoted Coleridge who viewed fantasy as dead and old and imagination as something that "dissolves, diffuses and dissipates in order to recreate." For creativity, we need both fantasy and imagination. In fact, fantasy needs to move on to imagination. Steven's drawings are an example of fantasy: they do not move on.

Creativity, meanwhile, comes in two stages: the first stage is reproduction. Only after one has reproduced the work of another artist to some degree is one able to go deeper and to engage in imagination. For this imagination to work, one needs time. Steven, however, does not give himself this time. He draws instantly after he sees something.

Further, Dr. Sacks emphasized that conversation is crucial to creativity since creativity is dialogic as well as individual. He believes that community and congeniality is important in science. This is one of the main reasons why it is so important that scientists communicate with each other. But, even though community nurtures creativity, creativity also needs some solitude in order to fully develop.

Towards the end of the lecture, Sacks started talking about the second part of the topic of his lecture: the brain in connection with creativity. He admits that he cannot say much about the connection between neurology and creativity. He hopes that 15 to 20 years from now, computational models may come to tell us something about creativity. At the moment, however, we are mostly dependent on psychology in order to better understand creativity.

In connection with this, Sacks mentioned the debate on whether Albert Einstein had a "superbrain" that allowed him to come up with his marvelous theories. Dr. Sacks said that he does not know whether this is true or not. At the same time, he emphasized that a more powerful brain is not everything to make somebody "an Einstein."

"To be Einstein, you also have to be stubborn, difficult, curious," he said. "Einstein's genius was as much matrixed in his emotions and the times he lived in as it was in his brain." Thus, Dr. Sacks expects that even if we find bases for creativity in the brain, the brain is not the only factor that determines our creativity.

Oliver Sacks is a bestselling author as well as a world-renowned neurologist. As an author, he is probably best known for his 1985 collection of case histories from the far borderlands of neurological experience: *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*. Another

bestseller, *Awakenings*, inspired the Penny Marshall film *Awakenings*, starring Robert DeNiro and Robin Williams.

Currently, Dr. Oliver Sacks is a Clinical Professor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. This program was co-sponsored by the Words Matter program, as well as the Beckman Institute at Caltech, especially Jay A. Labinger, the Beckman Institute administrator, who also made some welcoming remarks.

## Skating Team Takes Pacific Regional Title

By ROBERT TINDOL

On a campus best known for rocket scientists, palm trees and physicists, one wouldn't normally expect to find a championship ice-skating team. But four young students from Caltech this last week claimed the first-place honors at the Pacific Regional Collegiate Figure Skating Competition.

Kelly Martin '05, Lara Pruitt '06 and graduate students Emily Schaller and Olga Schneider edged out the Stanford University team by a single point at the contest—a feat in itself, considering the premium California's other premier private college places on athletics—and also out-scrambled teams from UC Santa Cruz, the University of Denver and host San Jose State University for top berth.

The three highest-scoring teams will advance to the national competition this weekend in Denver. Caltech's newest sports champs say they are elated by their win and only slightly sobered by the fact that their newly formed team does not yet even have travel funds or a coach.

"It's the same figure skating that you see on TV, with a short program and a long program. In addition, we also compete in ice dancing," said team cofounder Schaller, who has been skating 16 of her 22 years. "But at the collegiate level it's a lot different because we're a team and rooting for each other. In noncollegiate competitions you are just out for yourself."

Schaller is a first-year graduate student in planetary science who works with former Jet Propulsion Laboratory director Bruce Murray, now an emeritus professor at Caltech. "Talk about real amateur athletics!" Murray said. "When was the last time Caltech beat Stanford and a UC campus in any sport?"

Associate Director of Athletic Mark Harriman, who helped the team with limited funding and administrative support, says he's overjoyed at their success. "This win is totally out of nowhere for us, but it's exciting," Harriman said. "They

## Students Make Difference in Day of Service

By JENNY IOFINOVA and ARTHI SRINIVASAN

Last Saturday, the Caltech Y held its third annual Make a Difference (MAD) Day. During this event, the largest and most complicated single-day event the Y holds, small groups of Caltech undergraduate and graduate students take part in eight different service projects in the Pasadena area.

The projects this year were varied, to suit every taste. They included such outdoor ventures as planting trees and trail maintenance at the Santa Monica trail coalition. Several were repair and renovation projects such as painting a Boys and Girls club, repairing homes as part of the Rebuilding Together program, building a house along with Habitat for Humanity and helping with the cleaning and organizing of the Union Station homeless shelter and sorting clothes for the Friends in Deed House clothing distribution program. The final service project was a visit to build crafts and interact with abused children at the Hill-sides home for children. Another project, a planned trip to the Chancellor's Place Assisted Living residence, was cancelled due to planning difficulties.

The projects, which ranged in length from about four to nine hours, all took place in the morning and culminated in a communal barbecue in the afternoon.

The Caltech Y sees the barbecue

as being a crucial part of MAD Day. While not only providing a relaxing way to end a day of community service, the barbecue is a chance for the participants to talk to people in different projects and find out about the varying experiences. As the members of the Y Executive Committee pointed out, it is also a chance to recruit people to do more Y activities and tell people about the different things the Y is involved with.

The idea was originally proposed two years ago by Jenn Caron '03, at a Y ExComm retreat. Caron and the committee modeled MAD Day on Occidental College's Into the Streets program, which was primarily designed to allow freshmen to get to know each other at the beginning of the school year while making a difference in the community. The idea was enthusiastically received.

Caron remembered that "most people had an idea for a [MAD Day] project and after we had spent a while talking about it, the general idea of what and when began to evolve." The intended purpose of MAD Day, was not only to make a difference in the community, but also, according to Caron, "to interact with other members of the Caltech community and to connect with each other."

The first and second years, MAD Day attracted a little over 110 participants. This year, participation is slightly less with around ninety. Excomm member Joy Qiu '03, however, was not worried that this is a start of a trend, since this year the trip is on the same weekend as an important weekend and a Rud-dock House camping trip. According to Qiu, "[the decline] is an indication of other things going on and the number depends on what events are going on around cam-

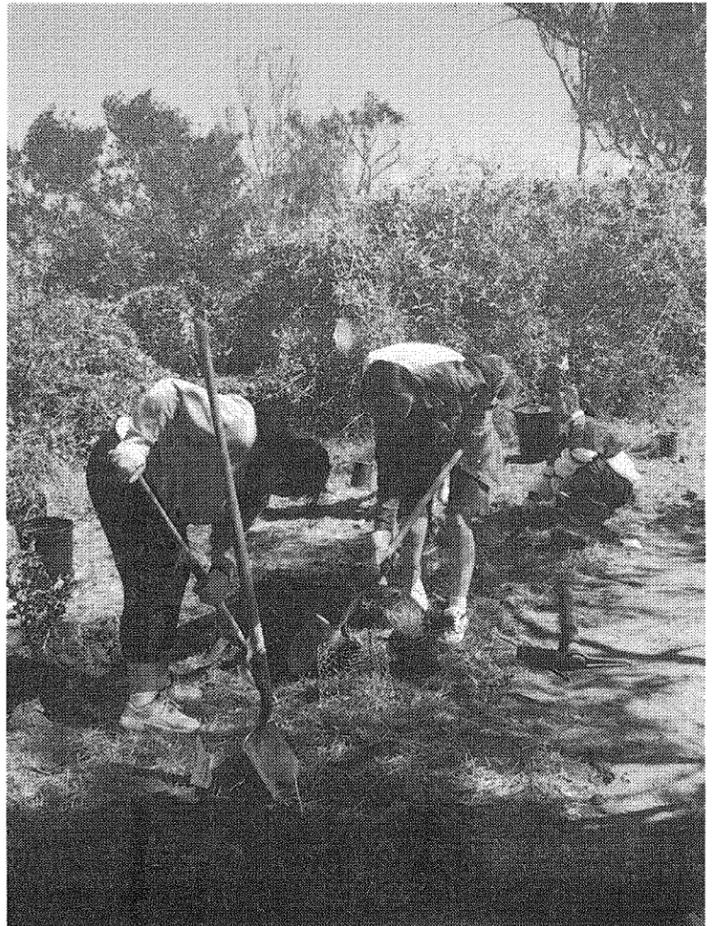
pus."

The Excomm members expressed strong hope that some participants of the program might have such a great time as to be persuaded to give yet more of their time, since all of the MAD day activities are actually regular service projects occurring on a monthly or bimonthly basis. According to Qiu, "The purpose [of MAD Day] is to attract people and make them say 'Wow, I want to do this again!'" Qiu further noted, "We try to [regularly] schedule the activities on different days so you can do all of them, although most people just stick with one or two." Fellow Excomm member Gustavo Joseph added, "We try not to compete with ourselves."

MAD Day is a considerable expense for the Y, running up a tab of about \$2600 to \$3000, with about half used to pay for transportation to the various events. The remainder of this money is spent on food, as the Y provides breakfast and lunch as well as the barbecue at the conclusion of MAD day. MAD Day is possible in large part because the Y receives significant contributions from the President's Office and the Y Board, which is composed primarily of Caltech Alumni.

MAD Day was a tremendous success with many people participating in activities which benefited the local community. While it is the largest single day Y event, the Y organizes and carries out many more throughout the year. Qiu expressed regret that "some people just didn't understand the Y has so many community service events."

MAD day is only a sneak peek at the Y's activities; Caron noted, "the Y is a wonderful place to do all sorts of activities; we're not good at making that known and [MAD Day] is a way to let people know."



Courtesy of S. Mortensen

Two students help plant trees as part of the Y's Make a Difference Day, which occurred this past Saturday.

The California Tech

Caltech 40-58

Pasadena, CA 91126