Kumar, Chung win ME72
15th annual mechanical design contest draws crowd, cheers

BY JUSTIN KAO

Cheering crowds of students, the school mascot, cameras, a giant video screen, cheerleaders in facepaint, spirit posters and the national anthem. At any other school, this would be strong evidence for a football game. Not at Caltech - here, engineers are the stars and the scrimmages occur on-stage between their inventions.

An annual tradition at Caltech, the ME 72 Engineering Design Contest was held for the 15th time on Thursday, December 2. Presided over by Professor Erik Anderonson, the free event drew over eight hundred Caltech students and faculty and even a few children to the Beckman Auditorium where they watched twelve teams duke it out for first place in a triple elimination competition.

This year's competition, dubbed "Hooks and Loops," involved building devices to attract scoring items to a velcro wall. Each team's final score

Citizens protest unfair corporate control of the WTO

BY ANNE KELLY

On Friday, November 26, Brendan Crill and I left for Seattle. We were on our way to join the tens of thousands of activists dedicated to protesting the World Trade Organization meetings being held in Seattle from November 29 to December 3.

The WTO is an organization of government officials and corporate leaders who create trade laws between the 150 member countries. The laws they make supersede national and local laws. Although the WTO's resolutions must be ratified by the US Senate before they are official, the WTO is seen as highly undemocratic since no members are elected to represent their countries and their decisions are made quietly behind doors closed to the public. The WTO requires that all member countries treat each other equally.

Almost none of the protesters in Seattle are against free trade. Instead, they are pushing for a more accountable trade organization. The individual interests of the protesters are extremely diverse. Mexican Zapatistas, American union members, environmentalists, feminists, human rights activists, anti-capitalists, people against genetically modified food, economic justice activists, anti-corporate protesters, Students for a Free Tibet, and dozens other interest groups gathered to raise their voices and even shut down the WTO meeting being held all this week. A dairy farmer from Wisconsin told a reporter from The Nation, "I think they thought they could put this meeting in the U.S. and nobody would care. But they're going to find out a lot of us do care."

Friday, November 26

We arrived in Seattle and looked around downtown. Christmas was in the air; cheezy music blared over loudspeakers in a square while shoppers hurried from Borders to Starbucks to Gap. (I think each of those stores was on every block.)

Saturday, November 27

We woke up early and headed to the Direct Action Network to attend some workshops. The DAN is an anarchist center where people could meet to organize, create signs and puppets, learn about non-violence, find a place to sleep for the night, or whatever else needed to be done. DAN had no leaders but instead people who organized groups around the principles of anarchism and non-violence. The building was full of mostly dreadlocked twenty-somethings, but all kinds of people were there, around a few hundred. Everyone was busy making signs, organizing child care, forming jail support groups, and preparing for November 30 and beyond. The atmosphere was energetic and jovial.

The California Tech
Admissions

A few short comments on the latest Innerspace articles. Jason’s recommendation to take advantage of “stupid people” (November 12) is essentially an argument for the well-known theory of “Might makes right.” Nobody who needs examples of why this is a really ludicrous idea should look up any one of the following: the Frost Giants in Norse mythology, the character Jack in “The Lord of the Flies,” Chapter 1 of “The Republic,” Hitler and the Holocaust, Napoleon, or the European colonization of Africa, America, and Asia.

While I’m on my soap box, the need for exercise that Jason bitterly complained about in his November 5 column is actually quite reasonable from the evolutionary viewpoint. All life evolved under subsistence conditions, so it is designed not to waste energy on any process that isn’t critical to survival. If one doesn’t stress one’s muscles regularly, then they must not be critical, so it’s better to store excess energy as fat for use when things get really tough. If we were in our natural state of subsistence, we would be stressing our muscles regularly, so we would never notice the issue, and things would often get really tough, so we would appreciate the fat reserves.

One might wonder why a person who admits to not being very strong physically would advocate the theory of “Might makes right” ...

Sincerely,
John Lindal

P.S. Innerspace is actually a ploy by the Tech editors to push us out of our apathy and force us to generate copy, right? ed’s note: Actually, no. Although it is a pleasant side effect.

Admissions

Human rights abuses continue in Innerspace

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Letters

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This year a lot of college seniors will be graduating into debt.

Under the Army’s Loan Repayment program, you could get out from under with a three-year enlistment.

Each year you serve on active duty reduces your indebtedness by one-third or $1,500, whichever amount is greater, up to a $65,000 limit.

The offer applies to Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans, and certain other federally insured loans, which are not in default.

And debt relief is just one of the many benefits you’ll earn from the Army. Ask your Army Recruiter.

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Army. Be all you can be.*

www.goarmy.com
Present: BoD minus Jaideep (Danny in at 15:17), Professor Steven Frautsch, Barbara Green, Bryan Tiedemann, Yang Xu, Angela Shum
Meeting called to order at 15:04.

Dealing with Guests
Yang requests check for this term for the Caltech Karate Club.
Bryan picks up a check for this term for the CEVC (Caltech Electric Vehicle Club).

Project Reports
ASCIT Movie Library - Alan shows us a list of about 30 videotapes and 35 DVDs he proposes to buy for this movie library. The BoD approves it.

Board Food Pricing - Baldeep reports that on Tuesday he, Jaideep, Tom Mannion, Andre Mallie, Patrick Gannon, and [Food Chair] Ian Swett met to discuss alternative pricing for board. They are looking into having a declining balance system for everyone on board (including in the houses) for lunch so everyone on board can use their ID cards to eat at any of the food venues such as Chambers and Avery. Other ideas being considered are closing the South House Kitchens at lunch and contracting outside vendors. Jaideep, Baldeep, and Ian will be forming a committee to analyze by February how this system might work out and what types of systems might work best.
The BoD requests to see an actual budget of the board system to see how the costs get broken up, since overhead costs are said to be the majority of costs. Also, others mention that it seems that many people on the Avery board declining balance system are concerned because they have more money than they can spend during the rest of the term left in their accounts. Baldeep says he will bring these points up with the committee.

Junior Class BBQ - The Junior Class officers requested money last week for this BBQ which was held Sunday, November 7. The BoD approves $300 to cover their costs pending receipt of the actual cost breakdown.
Meeting adjourned at 15:37. Respectfully submitted,

Hanna Kim
ASCIT Secretary

Present: BOD minus Hannah, Melvin, and Jaideep hold a meeting without quorum. Guests are grad students Marcel and Claude (of GSC), Dean Revel, MOSH Frautsch, administration guy Hall Daily, Movies Director Tim Crosby, and Jam Room guy Rory.

GSC folks want the lights for the party in the Coffeehouse this weekend (some are not yet back from Page), and the BOD gives unofficial approval for approx. $100 for external light rental.

Gurt is looking into pooling party equipment into one centralized location. Stinkin' Commie!!

Hall Daily discusses Big T: Editor Erik Dill should have a contract signed around early December. Daly recommends giving last year's editor, Wren, full stipend even though it was mostly LATE HOUSE PAGES. Wren, full stipend even thought it was three weeks late. The biggest reason it was late was not Wren's fault—it was mostly LATE HOUSE PAGES. Daly says:

ALL YOU @#$%^& HOUSE HISTORIANS GET THOSE HOUSE PAGES IN ON TIME!!

There are also issues with the commission for the Big T Business manager, since the job was largely taken over by Katy.

Finally, Derek will begin working on the UROH (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Handout—er, book), since he sucks. Feel free to e-mail him love poems, your credit card and PIN numbers, and ideas for how the UROH might be improved: dms@its.

Respectfully submitted,

Derek Shannon
Low Class Director-at-Large

Now you know the drill. Go to class. Get the assignment. Inherit the brain-dead. Have a meeting. Lose the notes. Open a vein. Sound familiar? Try XDrive. The world's first free Internet hard drive on the desktop. It delivers anywhere, anytime access from any Web-ready computer.

Wouldn't it be easier if everyone had access to the same files, notes, and timelines—no matter where they are on campus? No more running around, missed meetings, or eavesdropping. And whenever someone adds or edits a file, you can track the updates on the Web.

Plus XDrive gives you 25 megs of space free (that's about the same as 17 virus-infected floppy's you won't have to scribble around anymore). Which means you'll have plenty of room to stash all your personal stuff, MP3s, movies, groovy pics. Oh, the works. (Private files are password protected, even if you're mucking off your roommate's computer.)

WTO Relived

The Direct Action Network was organized the way Spanish anarchists often organized: spontaneously, out of the revolutions of the Spanish Revolution. Small groups of about ten to fifty people, called affinity groups, would meet together and decide what to do. Within the affinity groups, there were no leaders, but instead a group of people, a media person, a legal contact (in case some people are arrested or questioned), a driver for whatever else was needed. All decisions were made by consensus. When necessary, a decision would be made by a second, and the majority would win. The affinity groups would meet together to make sure the mass organization was on track.

Our first workshop at DAN was a class called "Blockading 101," which explained role-plays such as calming down motorists angry with our demonstration and dealing with cops trying to force us from our position. Within the participants, people covered a wide range of backgrounds and political views. It was wonderful to see how well thought and articulate each person was and how accepting people were of each other's different opinions.

We returned back to DAN after a day and a half of blockading in downtown and had a meeting. The only section that was non-violent was a little more jazzy than everything else. A lot of the people were standing in the arm-in-arm with a wall of policemen behind them, and yet they were still able to build up their barricade, and their arms were linked, they arms would be used to defend the barricade, my feet were dying and my hands were shaking.

After standing for five hours in the rain and food poisoning, we included upset stomach, indigestion, loss of appetite, nausea, diarrhea, fever, and stomach aches. Almost everyone who exhibited symptoms similar to stomach flu and food poisoning. These included upset stomach, indigestion, loss of appetite, nausea, diarrhea, fever, and stomach aches. Almost everyone who exhibited symptoms were unable to do any work at all. For the following two days, Thursday and Friday, Ruddock house was deathly silent as most of those affected spent their time in bed recovering.

Symptoms began immediately after dinner to midday, and it was more than just the flu. These symptoms were no one who ate the other entree, none who ate the other entree, none who ate the other entree, none who ate the other entree, none who ate the other entree. The symptoms included upset stomach, indigestion, loss of appetite, nausea, diarrhea, fever, and stomach aches. Almost everyone who exhibited symptoms similar to stomach flu and food poisoning. These included upset stomach, indigestion, loss of appetite, nausea, diarrhea, fever, and stomach aches. Almost everyone who exhibited symptoms were unable to do any work at all. For the following two days, Thursday and Friday, Ruddock house was deathly silent as most of those affected spent their time in bed recovering.
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If you want to be part of the Internet revolution, visit us on campus TODAY!

If you are unable to meet with us, and are interested in Excite@Home, please contact us:
Joanna Haroun, Excite@Home, 450 Broadway, Redwood City, CA 94063. Fax: (650) 482-4604; Email: haroun@corp.home.net. EOE.

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The police in S

Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi premiered in New York last year to death threats, bomb threats, and scads of picketers and other protesters, and now my friend and co-worker Dave Barton's Rude Guerrilla Theater Company has brought Terrence McNally's gay passion play to Southern Cali

Corpus Christi is a gay son of God named Joshua is born in a Texas motel, leads his unaccepting society, and is known as "King of the Queers." While the play is unquestionably moving and its concept valid territory for exploration, at its core it doesn't really have a great script. Most of its power comes from scenes adapted directly from the original Gospels, and the rest of the translation from asexaul Nazorean to gay Texan is either by-the-numbers or campy and haphazard. Furthermore, there are numerous theological cheese-jobs from the blatant (no Resurrection) to the subtle ("love God and love your neighbor" becomes "love God by loving your neighbor"). In essence, McNally wished to create a "Buddy Christ" who would tell him what he wanted to hear.

Dave Barton does a pretty good job with the material, and he's shown to be an expert at getting his actors to feel strong emotions, particularly the violent ones. This is complemented by the immediacy of the small Empire Theater and the wrap-around seating; hearing the nails being pounded into the cross as Jay Michael Fraley's Joshua cries out in pain is a harrowing experience indeed. Fraley stands out as the best actor in the bunch, and Sean Cox is understatedly sinister as his lover and betrayer Judas. The rest of the cast does a pretty good job playing multiple roles, though things may be a little confusing at first.

Flow

The end of first term is finally upon us. So as people fantasize about going home after finishing their finals, the Caltech Y would like to say "Happy Holi­
days and a Happy New Year!" For the fresh, keep in mind that as of next term, you are eligible to work and thus able to receive Federal Work Study. One avenue that you can consider is tutoring middle/high school stu­dents for the Y. With Federal Work Study, you will be com­pensated at $12/hour for your services. Please contact the Y at ext. 603 for more information.

If you're interested, you can ask about other service activities which we sponsor. For those who are planning on going camping over Winter Vacat­ion, keep in mind that the Y rents out various forms of camping equipment.

For more information, please e-mail Ying Tian at ying@cco.caltech.edu.

Decompression

Decompression is occurring this coming Saturday (12/04) and Sunday (12/05) starting at 7:00 PM on both nights. On Saturday, we will be featuring Swing Dance lessons (starting at 7:30 PM) with the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club. The band Dr. Evil will be accompanying the CBDC. Sunday night will feature Curtis Pehl hosting "The Roommate Game." A prize will be given to the pair of roommates who give the best responses. For those who have never attended Decompression before, Decompression is an event held immediately before finals week where the Y serves free food to all undergraduate and graduate students who at­tend. The various food items include hamburgers, hot dogs, bagels, fruits, condiments, chili, and drinks. Aside from the featured entertainment mentioned earlier, some movies will also be shown for those who prefer the quiet atmosphere of watching a film.

General Info

The Caltech Y holds weekly meetings on Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Y Lounge which is behind Steele House. We welcome anyone who is interested in learning about the Y does or who wants to get involved. Bring your ideas, your friends, and your lunch. If you would like to get e-mails about Y-events, Y-outdoor events, or Y-community service events, please e-mail Elisa Chiang at polari@cco.caltech.edu. Special events for seniors, such as a square dances, will be featured in the coming weeks.

Go Postal at USPS Expo

Shop for all your mailing needs!

Seattle-The police in Seattle keep demonstrations away from the area surrounding the World Trade Organisation conference for the second day. The protests began on Thursday and several demonstrating groups said that they will continue their marches. They also declared the "surface" invalid be­cause of the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and assembly. It is the first curfew since the army told Japa­nese citizens to stay off the streets dur­ing the Second World War. The demonstra­tions were mostly peaceful, but one group threatened to shut down the WTO by any means, so the police started to use tear gas.
The World is not Enough
a review by
Andrew Casteel

Oh for the days when Bond was something more than a cheap excuse to make Denise Richards, of Starship Troopers fame, into a nuclear physicist. Like any Bond film it held to the standard formula of gadgets, villains, love interests, and witty reposts. Here’s the breakdown.

Gadgets
Ever since he lost his Aston Martin, Bond has been nothing but a corporate billboard. This year was no different. Brosnan at least lost his BMW Z-8, a midsize sedan that seats 5 and is conveniently priced at $92,000 so that any well off father of 3 can tell his kids he drives the same car as a secret agent, and picked up the BMW Z-8 roadster, a priercievable that is sporty enough to satisfy any yuppie in the middle of life crisis. An improvement in my opinion, as Bond should never drive the same car that yuppies in Westwood use to take their kids to soccer practice.

The car and other gadgets are introduced by “Q’s replacement “R” played by Monty Python’s John Cleese. The old “Q” makes his last appearance to introduce the rather clumsy “R”. I’ll miss “Q”. He was the only element of the original Bond that’s survived this many sequels. The rest of the gadgets were just as blatant. His Omega grappling hook watch, his x-ray Calvin Klein specs, his lockpicking VISA card all get nice close-ups during the film. The rest of the product placement is just as blatant, especially the boxes of Smirnoff’s vodka stacked in the middle of an otherwise clean office of a corporate casino owner. At least if you can’t afford the car Bond drives, you can afford the vodka Bond drinks.

The best gadget by far is the boat you’ve probably seen in the commercials. Bond has an incredible chase scene with it through the Thames right before the traditional credits and naked women scene at the beginning of the movie. Just in case you were wondering, the boat is also available from Bentz in Lewiston, Idaho. I wonder how much it cost them to make their boat Bond’s boat. Disappointed me monologues to minor villains. And second, to whine to his girlfriend about how he can’t feel her anymore. When Bond’s kicking his butt, Renault never really plays it off as though he can’t feel it. Later on you find that he isn’t the real villain, but the real villain didn’t really impress either.

Love Interests
Bond begins the movie in the search of Renault, who used him to kill a billionaire oil mogul. In order to find them, he trails the mogul’s daughter, who they suspect to be his next target. The usual Bond mating dance of flirting, saving from assassins, and playing cards in a casino ensues. I’d say more about this woman, but she really isn’t that interesting and I’m very happy when she finally buys it.

He then moves on to everyone’s favorite nuclear physicist, Denise Richards, perhaps the only nuclear physicist to wear a cut off tank top and short shorts under her radiation suit. She delivers her lines with the same lack of passion that has plagued her throughout her career. She’s almost tolerable when she’s not trying to explain the latest in plutonium weapons. At those moments, she bears a striking resemblance to a cat when its coughing up furballs: it has no idea why such horrible things come out of its mouth but it continues to spit them out.

At those moments, she [Denise Richards] bears a striking resemblance to a cat when it is coughing up furballs: it has no idea why such horrible things come out of its mouth but it continues to spit them out.

Villains
The new Bond villain, Renault, did not impress me. He had a nice background. An ex-KGB agent who went freelance terrorist, 009 attempted to kill him but botched the job. This left a bullet in his brain, which leaves him without the ability to feel pain but will eventually kill him. This villain disappoints you from the start till the very end. He only seems to use this ability for two purposes. First, to injure himself in a pathetic attempt to add impact to the usual Bond Villain “you’re just as blatant to a cat when its coughing up furballs: it has no idea why such horrible things come out of its mouth but it continues to spit them out.

As bad as they get, nothing prepares you for Bond’s final remark, which makes you want to forget that the holidays are approaching. All in all, it was a disappointing Bond movie. If you really want to see a Brosnan Bond movie, go and rent Tomorrow Never Dies or Goldeneye. Better yet, rent a Sean Connery Bond; a good one like Goldfinger or From Russia With Love.

Witty Reposts
You’ve already seen the best in the commercials. The rest are all downhill. He even lets off a few premature “villain killing” remarks. I thought he had matured enough not to have that problem anymore. As bad as they get, nothing prepares you for Bond’s final remark, which makes you want to forget that the holidays are approaching.

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myplay.com. The center of your digital music universe.
Suddenly, canisters flew low over our dia. Other wonderful people began to scream couldn't cry. I couldn't open my eyes, and lungs were searing. I sat down and in defiance.

Later we learned that these were concussion grenades, designed to scare bystanders being fired on and tortured. How that we couldn't be intimidated. Force. My eyes were on fire, but I standing our ground, chanting at the whole world is watching you! The whole world is watching! Feeling like that was the grand finale, but we held our ground. We didn't allow Madeleine Albright to proof the injustice of the standoff.

A complete log of competition pairings and results is posted at www.design.caltech.edu/Courses/ME72/.

Congratulations all the entrants. In the words of Professor Antonsson, "truly astounding!!"

N30 in Seattle was a mass uprising of a diverse people who were united against the growing influence of global corporations and other powerful undemocratic forces. While the violent actions of a small number of protesters may create some backwash, the issue of the globalization of capitalism has been vaulted into the public consciousness.

The world's largest campus job fair

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28

The California Tech

Mech E-xtravaganza!

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Doga (B) rated R: for violence and much crudeness, the spiritual corruption of a man, and a naughty sexual innuendo

Even without a degree in theology, it is quite obvious the extremity to which the writer contorts religious commandments for the sake of cinematic coherence. The premise of the movie hinges on the designation of two arches in a church in New Jersey as the abode of pillars of God-granted forgiveness, a move sanctioned by the Pope for the sake of promoting Catholicism which God must also honor under papal infallibility. Yet, being granted forgiveness is equated with an automatic stairway to heaven, thereby giving two fallen angels a chance to regain their place in celestial bliss though reprimanded by God personally with an eternal-life sentence to the cheese State (Wisconsin).

By dance, Loki and Bartleby (Matt Damon and Ben Affleck) receive newspaper clipping highlighting the route to salvation, and though God is omnipotent and supposedly omnipresent, he imagines himself beyond God's ability to prevent their peregrination to earth, careful though not to reveal their true identity (with feathers and such) to God or a human being in the company of human invertebrates to their Creator. They find themselves as living test-tubes of Christian faith, posing questions to those who appear the most religiously devout and essentially accentuating their doubts which uncover their corruption. But on a whim, and perhaps subconsciously believing that God could act alone, Bartleby and Loki begin to ride the world of sinners, ironically including their victims' chance of atonement and forgiveness even though Bartleby and Loki desperately seek it themselves. Knowing that forgiveness is guaranteed once they pass the Church pews, they justify their deviations from model behavior as wrongs for which they will be forgiven anyway, turning to a dark side that belies their angelic identity.

Bartleby's and Loki's re-entry into Heaven, coincidentally, precipitates God's fallibility and the end of all creation. Before purging His domain, God specified that the two renegade angels would never find a place in Heaven again, and therefore, their success in reaching the pillars would contradict that statement. The loophole was carefully calculated by yet another fallen angel, spiteful of his sentence to hell, and preferring the destruction of the Universe rather than further torment in the Netherworld. God, in his omnipotence, turns out to be MIA in these episodes, which draws a flurry of activity amongst his heavenly minions and a few clueless mortals sent to stop Bartleby and Loki at all costs. The netherworld-demon mammal divinity sends a small regiment to block the mortals, introducing a trio of nasty, mute adolescents and titans which can only otherwise be described as a poo-poo monster.

The theological climax takes place after a rather un-dramatic initial confrontation between the two angels and their mortal enemies. Realizing for the first time the potentially end of the world consequences of their re-entry into Heaven, Loki's vengeful identity diminishes but Bartleby becomes confrontational. Bartleby holds an expectation of forgiveness; he reasons that given the frequency of rejection of religion among humans and God's capacity for the salvation of mortals regardless, angels, with their eons of faithful service, must also be granted forgiveness. But rejected by God, Bartleby's spite is a metaphor for the jilted lover's angst — the affection quickly rankles and in a blo in the end, he turns to a dark side, trying to control his propensity to become terrorized by spidery, otherworldly creatures. In Tim Burton's gothic movie version, however, the headless horseman is undeniably a physical reality — a symbol of both men's insconciousness and castration simultaneously.

But though the movie derives its primary adversary and the name of its cowardly protagonist from the netherworld's general distrust between this movie supposedly based on an American literary classic and a straight-forward slasher film set in a place long ago. With the exception of extremely stylish and technically challenging chase scenes, whereby the camera has to smoothly follow a galloping swordsman, the movie lacks anything truly unique. Like many a horror film before it, the motive for the madness is revealed (in all its cheesy entirety) in a monologue by the villain in the last five minutes, during which the protagonist stands around his hy-
December 3, 1999

Comics

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by Scott Adams

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I BROUGHT MY KIDS TO WORK BECAUSE DAY CARE IS CLOSED.

TESS IS A YELLER AND SPOOKY IS A BITER.

WHY IS DAY CARE CLOSED? THE YOUNG PEOPLE TORCHED IT.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE TELECOMMUTING TODAY.

I'M SICK.

I CANT SEND YOU TO THIS CLASS, ALICE. WE NEED YOU HERE.

AND AFTER WE USE YOU UP, WE'LL NEED YOU TO BE SOMEPLACE ELSE.

WHAT WILL I DO WHEN MY SKILLS ARE OBSOLETE?

TRY WALKING AROUND WITH A COFFEE CUP.

THE WEB SITE NEEDS TO BE MORE WEBBY.

BUT NOT TOO WEBBY.

HOW LONG WILL THAT TAKE?

I'M GONNA TRY THIS DURING OUR MEETING.

DOES ANYONE WANT TO SWITCH CHAIRS?

IT'S SHARKING. IT'S SHARKING. IT'S ACTUALLY SHARKING.

I KNEW IF I SAT OUT HERE LONG ENOUGH, SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN. YES! I KNEW IT!

PETER, WILL YOU CLOSE THE BATHROOM WINDOW WHEN YOU LEAVE THIS NIGHT?

IN MY 50 YEARS OF EXISTENCE, I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH INFERNOE November WEATHER!

IT'S NEVER BEEN LIKE THIS Before!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I CAN GET OUTSIDE, IT'S SO BAD.

SUE, I'M THINKING OF SOMETHING RIGHT.

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I hope you had a great Thanksgiving, all of you, those who stayed behind and those who braved the throngs and went home to a Turkey such as only a Mom can cook. Unfortunately, that’s all ancient history. You are already back in your classes and the term is near its end. The amino acids you extracted from the Turkey are well ensconced in your own proteins, and the glow of seeing family and friends is slowly dissipating.

We are all members of groups, some acquired through self selection, such as one’s friends, others “inherited” like our parents and siblings. Even while enjoying your short visit home, you probably looked forward to coming back here, feeling a bit lost without the company of your new friends at Caltech. The friends that we make on our own are in a special category. We select a special few among the people that fate brings us near to. There is no telling what attracts us, what the chemistry is…. maybe it is a pheromone. I am sure you have all heard of the Gypsy Moths exploits in their attempts to attract potential mates from miles around by sending out a cloud of 7,8-epoxy-2-methyloctadecan as a guide. The males detect vanishingly low amounts of the stuff and follow the concentration gradient to their potential mates. We don’t know much about human pheromones, contrary to what the makers of Chanel want us to believe, and it is unlikely that they form the basis for human friendships. All we know is that among those with whom we share a common living space, a common place of work, the same house, or some common experiences there are a few to which we become especially loyal. Besides these close friends we also form less tight bonds with groups of other people, classmatess, and to some degree, everyone at school.

Part of being friends is that each tries to protect the well being of the others. Each of us becomes his/her friend’s keeper. But there are times when things become awkward. Because we don’t belong just to one group, but to several at the same time we may have multiple, and sometimes conflicting, inter-

a friend who has become embroiled in a prank or some other adventure, which both of you consider harmless. However it is not yours to judge whether something is innocuous, that is the preogative of the object of the prank, and/or the bystanders, all of the way to the Institute itself, or, even further afield, the Institute’s neighbors, the city and so forth. Attempts at protecting your associates may place you too in harm’s way. It is indeed a hard spot to be in, having to choose between the interest of your friend or those of wider constituencies. However one feels about one’s endangered companion, not telling all the truth, or at least all one knows of the truth, ends up in endangering one’s own status. What’s to be done?

Something like this happens at Caltech too. We have loyalties to our friends, the members of the alley we live in, the whole House, the Institute. When there are conflicts between the attention asked of us by different groups, we solve the dilemmas by applying the rule expressed in the Honor Code that we accept to live with when coming to Caltech. We fulfill our obligations to all by avoiding taking unfair advantage of other Caltechers. Easier said than done, of course. In fact, the Code of Conduct ends up being violated over and over in the case of things that are seen as just fun, nothing serious, pranks or other RFs. Such breaches may seem trivial to you, but are not so to others, and breaking the rules may have the consequence that everyone’s freedom becomes restricted. Sometimes it seems appropriate to protect the clear identity of the prankster(s). If that rule is followed then no one gets to be suspected who should not be, no one ends being taken advantage of.

If the people involved do not accept the responsibility of their actions, then you, any of us, the unjustly accused and others in the know, should give thought to what sort of friend it is that they are protecting. How much of a sacrifice should anyone make for a Turkey who has so little respect for you that he/she allows(s) some one to take a potential rap in their place? In such cases, do all you can to convince the actual perpetrators that they should do the right thing, that they should stop taking advantage of you. Get all of your true friends to work on these cowardly low lives. Remember, horror of all nightmares, that failure to answer “may be considered an Honor System violation in itself”. Select your friends from among people who have the courage to do the proper thing. Only they merit your friendship. Don’t let yourself be attracted, moth-like, by a pheromone gradient. Give considered thought to your choices in friends...

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December 3, 1999

The Measurement Science Conference (MSC) luncheon will be held on January 20, 2000 at the Disneyland Convention Center in Anaheim, California.

The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group: extends invitations to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual discussion group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 8:15 p.m. until 10:15 p.m. in the Center Lounge. This is an informal group. We do not discuss anything about a person's sexual orientation. The group usually discusses topics of interest and then moves on to the general discussion. Refreshments are served. For more information, call x3851.

Standard First Aid training will be offered by the Safety Office for the campus community. The two-day American Red Cross First Aid/CPR course integrates adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with other first aid topics. Participants will receive CPR first aid certification, but expired Adult CPR certification, can register for recertification. Recertification will be held on the first of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be new, door prizes, and displays of some of the services they provide. The Safety Office is located in room 25 of the Keil Spalding Building. The entire campus community is invited.

Berlin’s Meaning in Los Angeles: Architecture and the City, a conference at the Getty Center sponsored by the Getty Research Institute. Tickets are $20, $15, and $15 for students. For further information, contact Marion Lawrence at marion@caltech.edu or (626) 395-4897.

The Kaltech Hilfs Committee's website page now includes Check it out at http://www.isc.caltech.edu/hilf/Events

Caltech & HCSS Division Seminar of Science, Ethics, and Public Policy presents the following:

Dr. Lyn K. Nyhart, Associate Professor of History of Science at University of California, Berkeley, will present a talk on "Turing: The Nature of Intelligence*. Students for Technical Experience, has seminars for students majoring in nuclear energy, generation power, health physics, or chemical, electrical, or mechanical engineering with nuclear applications. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. For further information you may contact the National Academy for Nuclear Training Scholarship Program, 700 Gala Dr. Atlanta, GA 30339-9575 or via email at nant@jopas.org. Entries must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by Jan 30, 2000.

Andover Teaching Fellowships. Phillips Academy, Andover has ten to twelve fellowships for graduating seniors who would like to teach at Andover for the 2000-2001 academic year. They also have a special summer teaching assistantship for graduating senior engineers who would like to teach in Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad. The campus deadline date is January 10, 2000.

Andover Teachers College (BHCSC) will be starting their next series of classes during the Winter 1999 Fall Quarter. For more information, see www.caltech.edu/ballroom or call 626-791-3102.

H & SS Division offers the following:

Selected Topics for winter term 2000-1166 Richland, the 1606t. Lit 180 Science & Literature in 19th Cen­

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The Caltech Tennis Club will be starting their next series of classes during the Winter 1999 Fall Quarter. For more information, on the web at http://www.caltech.edu/.

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Students for Technical Experience, has seminars for students majoring in nuclear energy, generation power, health physics, or chemical, electrical, or mechanical engineering with nuclear applications. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. For further information you may contact the National Academy for Nuclear Training Scholarship Program, 700 Gala Dr. Atlanta, GA 30339-9575 or via email at nant@jopas.org. Entries must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by Jan 30, 2000.

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