Help Move a Child Higher

By Virek Kotekski

Many of us have reached the point of the term where we don’t want to think about anything except our summer. (Some some of us, of course, reached that point a bit sooner than oth-

ers.)

Since we’re all thinking about it, and many of us will be around here for SURF’s, TIDE’s or summer jobs, I’d like to mention an interesting idea for summer volunteering (and which could also well carry over into next year). “Move A Child Higher” (MACH) is a hand-riding program at Flintridge Stables (conveniently located right next to JPL), and can always use volunteers for a variety of tasks.

This is a program that does make an important difference. Riding a horse exercises many of the same muscles as walking, and it provides children who are too crippled to walk a way to develop these muscles and prevent atrophy. Horse riding also has a calming effect on other kinds of kids and provides something for them to focus on. In countries such as Germany, “therapeutic riding” is a regular part of traditional therapy programs for children and adults alike.

Personally, I find it just wonderful to take a break, “get out,” and work with horses and little kids. Most of the volunteer work involves leading horses around while children are riding (although this usually assumes some prior experience with horses) or walking alongside to make sure the children stay in the saddle. The last time I went

The California Tech

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Pasadena, California
June 2, 2000

Kipfest to honor top physicist

By Elisabeth Adams

Kip Thorne, the well-known Caltech astrophysicist and author of several famous books on physics, is turning 60. In recognition of this, Caltech has arranged a three-day symposium to “honor his long and distinguished career in physics, and also to honor his contributions to and achievements in the communication and popularization of science.” The festivities include a banquet Friday night at the Athenaeum and concludes in a full day of lectures in Beckman Auditorium on Saturday.

Kipfest, as the event is billed, will feature several renowned scientists, including Stephen Hawking, Thorne’s long-time colleague, friend, and betting partner; Igor Novikov, head of the Theoretical Astrophysics Center of the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics, in Copenhagen; and Kip Thorne himself. Filling out the rest of the all-day Saturday program will be two science writers: Timothy Ferris, author of bestselling books such as The Whole Shebang and Coming of Age in the Milky Way, and A Ian Lightman, a novelist and senior physics lecturer at MIT. The lectures will eventually form the nucleus for a book. There will also be an appearance of Lynda Williams, the “Physics Chanteuse.”

For a sampling of her unique music, visit http://www.entercsci.com/pchant.html.

Thorne: Caltech alum, professor and world-renowned physicist

Thorne, who is the Feynman Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics, received his B.S. degree from Caltech in 1962. He left for Princeton for a few years to earn a Ph.D. at Princeton, but returned as an Associate Professor in 1967 and has been here ever since. His work has focused on gravitational physics and astrophysics. Along with R. W. P. Drever and R. Weiss, he was the co-founder of the LIGO Project, which is designed to detect gravitational waves.

Thorne’s books are well known to several generations of physicists and physics students, some of whom credit them with their first piquing their interest in physics (even though much of the advanced gravitation went over their heads). Gravitation, published in 1973 with John A. Wheeler and Charles M. Misner, is regarded as one of the classic scientific books on general relativity of all time. More recently, Thorne wrote the best-seller Black holes and time warps: Einstein’s general relativity and Gravitational waves, a fascinating history of the past century in relativity which received rave reviews from scientists and the general public alike.

Although the early-admission tickets for Caltech/JPL staff, faculty, and students, and all have been claimed, admission without tickets on a space-available basis will begin Saturday at 9:30 a.m. For more information visit http://www.events.caltech.edu/kipfest.html.

AmA gets computational

By Justin Kao

As everyone needing to register for AmA 95 next year undoubtedly knows, Applied Mathematics has a middle name. The AmA department is now Applied and Computational Mathematics, reflecting the increasing use of numerical methods in math as applied to science and engineering. According to ACM executive officer Oscar Bruno, the name change is simply following the changes that have taken place in the department over the last several years.

“Many more things can be done with a computer now than 30 years ago... [the name change] lets people know of this aspect.”

In a way, noted Bruno, the change to ACM is a result of changes across all of science and engineering, which are increasingly relying on computers to solve problems by simulation. The computation itself, however, is another problem, one requiring the application of mathematically rigorous algorithms drawn from analytical techniques developed by mathematicians over the centuries. In other words, the computational methods require applied mathematics.

Are there other changes in ACM along with the new name? Although the name change is largely following previously changes in the department, the graduate curriculum is being updated and revamped as well. Future ACM grad students will have Caltech having taken two-year-long numerical analysis classes, designed to provide a foundation for scientific computing. Although other components of the curriculum have also changed, Bruno emphasized that the requirements are still evolving and changes will be ongoing even after the fall catalog is published.

So what does this mean for undergrads? Like it or not, AmA 95 still exists, now by the name ACM 95. As far other options go, nothing has changed—ACM 95 will be the exactly the same as AmA 95. Undergrad AmA majors will want to take note though, ACM 101 will not be the same as AmA 101. However, according to Bruno, the undergraduate requirements will probably be largely the same, as much as is possible given the reshuffling of classes involving grad students.

Simulant Incorporated

Undergraduate company sets sights high

By Mona Sheikh

Yet another Caltech start-up company is being readied to take the business world by storm. Simulant Inc, is a software company jointly founded by undergraduates Michael Hochberg, sophomore, Tom Baehr-Jones (junior), and Professor Axel Scherer, of Physics, Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering.

This year it was the recipient of the Caltech CNSE (Center for Neuromorphic Systems Engineering) Prize, which is awarded to winners of the annual Caltech 10K Business Plan competition. Last summer, when Physics majors Hochberg and Baehr-Jones wanted to perform simulations of photonic crystals, they realized that the finite difference time domain (FDTD) simulation they wanted to do would require a supercomputer to run it because of speed and memory considerations. Since purchasing one would prove extremely impractical, they instead designed and wrote a distributed implementation of FDTD, which would allow the simulations to run on a cluster of inexpensive computers.

Two clusters have since been built on campus to run Simulant’s software. One has eight computers, while the other has thirty-two, each of

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ASCIT Election Results
Results of Student Elections of May 24, 2000

Class Officers

The race for senior class president was decided after a redistribution of the NO votes. Here and in the other officer races, AM = absolute majority = \((1/2)\) * (number of non- abstaining ballots cast) + \((1/2)\) * (error). ABS = abstain, W = write-in.

Ballots cast: 65

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMM: YVES NEWASKAR</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>ABS</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>AM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So Puncet Newaskar wins.

The election for senior class vice-president, which had only one human candidate, was decided on the first count:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DALY</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>ABS</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>AM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unsurprisingly, Dan Daly won this one, making both of this year’s junior class officers next year’s senior class officers.

The election for junior class president went through three redistributions before a winner could be declared. There were no write-ins, and 87 ballots in all.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUSTOS GUPTA HEFFNER STURGEON NO</th>
<th>ABS</th>
<th>AM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The new junior class president is Dinkar Gupta. His vice-president, Sam Yeager, won on the first count:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CROSBY SHANNON YEAGER NO</th>
<th>ABS</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>AM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amendments

The amendments are easier to count, since there aren’t any of these redistributions to do. This time, the absolute majority is two-thirds of the non-abstaining ballots plus two-thirds of the error.

Amendment 1. Directors at Large.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSE YES NO</th>
<th>ABS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blacker</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dabney</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleming</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 17</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ricketts</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruddock</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AM = 132, so the amendment passes.

Amendment 2. Movies Chair.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSE YES NO</th>
<th>ABS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blacker</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dabney</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleming</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 18</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ricketts</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruddock</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AM = 132, so the amendment passes.

Amendment 3. Calling back past BoC reps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSE YES NO</th>
<th>ABS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blacker</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dabney</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleming</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 3</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ricketts</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruddock</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AM = 158, so the amendment fails.

Amendment 4. Dismissal of a BoC rep judged by peers to be biased.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSE YES NO</th>
<th>ABS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blacker</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dabney</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleming</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 3</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ricketts</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruddock</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AM = 160, so the amendment fails.

The protests are all resolved now for the class officer elections and ASCIT bylaw amendment referenda held last week (not that there were any official ones), and the long-awaited numerical results are now available.

Ballots cast per house:

- **House Fr/Sr So Jr Total**
  - Blacker 12 14 12 38
  - Dabney 5 0 3 8
  - Fleming 19 15 13 47
  - Lloyd 5 8 7 20
  - Page 25 22 13 60
  - Ricketts 10 8 10 28
  - Ruddock 18 20 7 45
  - Total 94 87 65 246

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The California Tech

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Volume CL, Number 29
June 2, 2000

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MACH:

Continued from Page 1:

there only the second time I've actually managed to), I was feeling contented by the time I was ready to go back. I thought it was actually more like therapy for me!

You can even get paid $12-$15 an hour by the Y if you have federal work/study. The Y is very eager to pay volunteers for their time, and is ready to pay for any volunteer work you may want to do for a non-profit organization. Currently, a great deal of the work it pays for is done at the hospital and the Huntington.

For more information, visit MACH's webpage at http://www.caltechhigh.org, or contact Joy Rittenhouse by e-mail at jovynach@yahoo.com or by phone at (626) 798-1222.

Minutes of the ASCIT Bod Meeting
May 30, 2000

Present: BoD; Guests: Kacie Shelton, Gustavo Joseph, Rory Syres, Aley Bandeh-Alnadi, Iljie Kim, Nate Austin, Dave Guskin

Meeting called to order at 10:25 pm.

Guests: Kacie picks up the check for the Anime Club to buy Pokemon.

Jammrow - Sean writes Rory a check for the Jammrow. He comes to ask us to approve the new Jamrow head he wants to appoint: Peter Plavchan, a junior from Ruddock. The BoD is also currently working on a Jamrow resolution to outline the specifics of appointing a new head. Rory suggests offering some compensation, since being a Jamrow head involves a lot of work with little recognition (much like being an ASCIT officer).

Totent - Iljie and Ahey request more money for publishing the Toten this year ($200). They would like to put in more color pages and print more copies ($50, up from 300 last year). Since they asked them nicely, the GSC and the Alumni Association are also giving them funding, which will make the Toten available to grad students and faculty. They are printing their publication through Graphic Arts. Iljie also requests the bonus she did not receive for finishing the Toten on time last year.

"The Toten is a publication that will actually get published!" - Iljie. Ow, how low blow for Mr. Publications!

Martha-Helen suggests letting the Athletic Department take over the athletic awards, including the ordering of the letters. This would decrease the Ath Man's job to practically nothing. Eric would still like ASCIT to handle the ordering of the letters, especially since ASCIT would still be subsidizing part of the cost of the varsity jackets. The BoD unanimously approves to draft a resolution about this.

ARC - Emma placed the trophy orders for the ASCIT Teaching Awards. She'll pick them up tomorrow. The date of the banquet has also been finalized. Emma will be the MC of the event. She will also get the BIC to promote the fresh student advisor program.

Dolphins - Nate's dolphins are still perpetually jumping over Millikan Bridge. Nate has talked to Chris Brennan about possibly hanging the dolphins in a more permanent location, such as in the Athletic Center, for future generations to enjoy. The BoD bags Nate about adopting an ASCIT dolphin. He starts talking about how ASCIT needs to really give him very much money and about how he wants to keep the set together, so basically we are denied! To show that there are no hard feelings, Sean gives him his $100 of ASCIT dolphin funding.

Laura reports that the current CLub editors would like to finish what they've started. The BoD is concerned about it not being finished on schedule. Eric says that if the emails (requesting submissions) are not sent by the week after classes end, Laura and Chris will take over.

Eric is writing a few letters to incoming freshmen. One is for the fresh student advisor program and the other is the traditional introductory letter by the ASCIT President.

The BoD will be having lunch at the Athenaeum on Thursday, June 1.

The Caltech Discordian Klub (CDK) is requesting their entire year's funding now because they need it to buy equipment. The BoD approves (6-0-1) with the stipulation that if the club disbands by the end of the fiscal year, ASCIT will receive their equipment (or a monetary equivalent).

The BoD approves to give the Toten the $200 they asked for (6-1-1). Meghan points out that they should have told us much earlier so that we could have located the appropriate amount at the Budget Meeting. We also give Iljie $50 as a bonus for her work on the Toten last year.

On a side note, Gurt Heffner is good at schmoozing. He was able to pull in enough funding to balance the Formal's budget. He's our go-to guy (like on a Saturday Night Live sketch) for getting ASCIT Formal funding.

Martha-Helen will send an email to the new club list to remind them to send in their mandatory new club reports (one per term for the first year). She will also send a reminder email to all members to request their funding for this term, if they haven't done so already.

Meghan sent out an email recently to the publications people, asking them to submit their compensation schedules and to give their first report to ASCIT. She's still waiting for responses. Meghan's project over the summer will be to sell the ASCIT van.

Jason needs to update the bylaws for the ASCIT web site to reflect the results from last week's election. It will also have the new resolutions as soon as the BoD completes writing them up.

The BoD is working on the following list of resolutions. (Eric goes through them quickly, amidst flying basketballs and running Freshford directors.)

Jammrow - The new Jammrow head will be appointed at the advice of the current head at the same time as the other elected officials and the term of office will begin third term. The head will be offered a compensation of $100.

Duties of the Directors-at-Large - The Freshford Director-at-Large will be in charge of the Budget Meeting. They will also be in charge of the ASCIT Copier and will be the Publications Director.

Movie Chair - The Movie Chair will have all the duties that were in the bylaws before the amendment, plus care of the DVD Library and Screening Room.

Donut Man - The Donut Man is and will always be the official supplier of ASCIT Donuts. Period.

Athletic Control - The awards will go to the Athletic Director (currently Tim Downs).

The BoD comes up with a list of closing tasks for this year: - Take care of the ASCIT DVD Library/Screening Room - Clean up the ASCIT Office (especially the old food!) - Start the Web Project (Laura and Chris)

Sean will be in contact by email and snail mail over the summer, just in case any checks need to be written. He'll write them up and mail them to Laura for approval.

On a sad note, Melinda announces that she will be leaving for England next January to study abroad. We'll miss her and her awesome social directing.

The BoD will meet sometime before Rotation next year, but the date and time are still undecided. Stay tuned on the ASCIT web page (http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ascit).

As their final act this school year, the BoD unanimously approves Peter Plavchan as the new Jamrow head, effective immediately.

Final meeting of the year adjourns at 12:04 am. But the beat goes on...

Respectfully submitted,

Jason C. Cardena
The Lower Depths

My co-worker Dave Barton's latest production (for his Rude Guerrilla Theater Company) is his own modern adaptation of acclaimed Russian playwright Maxim Gorky’s The Lower Depths, a searing, take-no-prisoners look at a group of destitute flophouse residents struggling against their abusive religious hypocrisies. Gorky’s characters are not without hope, but he avoids romanticizing them, preferring instead to expose audiences to the endless cycle of crime, alcoholism, and misfortune that traps the indigent in poverty. Barton worked from Anton Chekhov’s notes on improving the dramatic structure, while also substantially modernizing and Americanizing the 1902 play, adding unmistakable Barton touches like a drag queen, copious amounts of foul language, and a more open representation of sex and violence.

There are 16 people in the ensemble cast, and it’s remarkable that they’re so distinct. David Cramer is perfectly cast as the upright, cruel landlord, and Lee Jalabe (another co-worker of mine) is his suitably dashing rogueish foil who rises to the forefront of the rising against him. Jalabe’s brief, meanwhile, is carrying on an affair with the landlord’s sexy, bitchy wife (Raquel Riggs) who abuses her weak but kindhearted sister (Regan D’Lyn). Of particular note are David Beatty, who has really found the soul of his hard-luck junk man with a dying wife, and 14-year-old Erin Green, world-weary but still childlike as a runaway prostitute. Unfortunately, with so many characters in a fairly short play, many of them are well-defined but not necessarily as well-developed. Instead of the characters developing along an arc, some seem to instead just follow a straight downward path.

While it’s true that Gorky’s original structure was anti-climactic, with a rather preachy and unexciting final act, Barton’s rewrite has given a little too far in the other direction, with the climax (a murder) abruptly coming mere seconds before the final curtain. Furthermore, for such an ideological play, the turning point revolves not around a thematic issue, but around the love triangle involving the thief and the landlord’s family. The result is that the climactic murder seems more like a plot instrument than an exploration of Gorky’s message. Barton’s adaptation has, indeed, made the murder more purposeful than in the original, but dramatically it’s still unsatisfying. It should be noted that his modernizations were well-considered, helping make the play more relevant for a current-day audience.

Structural issues aside, The Lower Depths is still worthwhile; the plight of the poor is as relevant in this country today as it was in Tsarist Russia. Incorporating Dave Barton’s masterful direction of his actors is the fabulous, evocative multilevel trashed-down stage. Rude Guerrilla’s best set design yet; and the intimate confines of the small Empire Theater, as always, heighten the intensity of the play. The Lower Depths runs through Friday, June 9, with performances Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:00 P.M. and Sundays at 2:30 P.M. at the Empire Theater, 200 N. Broadway, Santa Ana. Tickets are $12 general, or $10 for students. Call (714)547-4688 for reservations.

Kikajiro

Writer/director/editor/performer/painter Takeshi Kitano, the man who brought you the shockingly violent yet minimal Hana-Bi (Fireworks) now goes mellow with Kikajiro, a most unusual take on the middle-aged man-with-a-kid buddy movie. Think of it perhaps as Kitano’s Straight Story. It plays almost like a parody of Walter Salles’s Central Station, only instead of having a crusty but benign old schoolteacher, there’s an insano, goofy, aggressive loser of a man (Kitano) taking a kid on a cross-country trip to find his mother. This movie should serve as a real test to weed out those who were only turned on to the violence in Hana-Bi from those who genuinely appreciate Kitano’s severe yet whimsically original aesthetic. The relationship develops from being openly abusive to one of genuine care, but the evolution never seems slick. Kitano’s character is an interesting study of a man who never really matured, but is able nevertheless to reach his own marginal peace with the world. There are several very funny scenes, and many more of striking beauty and creativity, all delivered in the deadpan “Beat” Takeshi style. I highly recommend this movie for those who want an extraordinary filmgoing experience.

Editor’s Note: Be sure to watch Villani win Ben Stein’s Money on Tuesday, June 20th, at 11:30 P.M. on Comedy Central.

Work for the Tech

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Cosmopolitech
Los Angeles Tech
and The Rivet

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See why we're the worst selling paper on campus!

Coming next week!
Movie reviews

The Ticket Stub

BY JUSTIN HO

Mission: Impossible-2 (C)

By action movie standards, M.I.-2 was rather disappointing and given the luck of other genres in which this film could be placed it is lacking in any redeeming value. Even the first Mission: Impossible had a second level of film-noir sophistication which made it aesthetic in its dark way.

The setting was punctuated by bland European buildings which added its unsuited atmosphere by allowing us to conjure the many things which may have lurked in the background shadows. In contrast, M.I.-2 has lost its ability to surprise in its recycling of gimmicks.

The infiltration of secret buildings via rope suspension from the ceiling and the over-use of realistic masks were novel in 1995, but in four years of muttering, one would expect a greater degree of sophistical answer: near-instantaneous DNA sequencing, a songful, flawless biological attack. A host of cells with better quality than an electron micrograph, and talking pterodactyls which send out warning when conditions for their inmates are unfavorable.

Somewhere, a movie which actually contains a genuine Tom Cruise and not a stunt double in the rock-scaling scene should not resort to faux scientific instruments, though with a media-consuming public not as science-savvy as Caltech’s it’s a cleverly-fabricated means to prevent the introduction of anything that would be genuinely scientific and prolonged.

It’s hard to put a finger on why the DNA sequencing instrument would be a target of more criticism than, perhaps, the wildly unreal amorphous shape-shifting capabilities of the Terminator II villain though. Just like it’s so much bizarre that the co-existence of lemons and dinosaurs in the Disney movie is more hallucinated than the fact that they sing and dance. Scientific curiosity aside, it’s difficult to label M.I.-2 as a good movie because of the inability to relate to the characters. Even the love triangle which develops and is a humanizing feature in the otherwise emotionless heroic personas does little more than to portray Nyah Hall (Thandie Newton) as a Smaugette.

There is little to substantiate the transcendence of Ethan Trom Cruise and Nyah’s relationship to the non-plutonic state and although two good people hooking up just makes sense it is another contrivance. A lack of any cathartic moments prevents the audience for sympathizing with the characters, so that even when Nyah potentially risks her life, there’s nothing truly self-sacrificing in the act even though she asserts that her nature is self-cat and mouse chase, replete with overturning motorcycles and exploding SUV’s but at this point when the movie has the potential to become most stimulating it also becomes most ordinary.

Shanghai Noon (B+)

Shanghai Noon had the misfortune of opening in the same weekend as M.I.-2 and the added disadvantage of a sour trailer. Perhaps with these slightly lowered expectations the audience will be at least mildly impressed. The action hero personages Jackie Chan and his sidekick, Owen Wilson, assume are markedly different from those in M.I.-2. Both envision themselves greater than their incompatibility prohibits, but it is a universal longing in anyone, which makes it more approachable. And despite the slapped-sticky screenplay, it is actually a project which is finished with much wit. Jackie Chan has become the sentimental self-mocking superhero. Lacking in absolute English proficiency, he has been successful at poking fun at his misinterpretations. Such a target of levity as the movie would have been a grave disability in the actual historical context of the film, but it also introduces those increasingly-noticed birds of east-west languages and culture.

The plot of the movie is simple: to rescue an abducted Chinese princess (a resplendent Lucy Liu) betrothed to an impish emperor from cowboy-dominant 1800’s America. Chon Wang (Jackie Chan) is a member of the Royal Guard, but sent overseas foremost as a porter because of less than exemplary martial arts. Fate separates him from the rest of the rescue party at which point he associates himself with an aspiring train robber/notorious gunfighter and saves Indians, starts bar brawls, and drinks himself into silly stupors. History lends itself easily to an amalgamation of cultural mixing, misgivings, and displays of kung-fu. In his middle-age Jackie Chan may be limited in little facial contortions. It reinforces Jackie Chan as a master of physical comedy, to which Roy O’Bannon (Owen Wilson) plays the perfect foil by cutting corners in his endeavor to become a man of great notoriety. The synergy is an unexpected hybrid Western/action/comedy gem of a movie.
DILBERT® by Scott Adams

MY SOCKS USE AN ANTIMICROBIAL POLYMER TO BOND CHLORINE ATOMS TO COTTON.

I CAN WEAR THESE BABIES FOR DAYS BEFORE THEY START TO STINK.

WHAT WAS THAT OTHER PICKUP LINE WE TalkED ABOUT?

MY PATENT FOR NO-CLICK SHOPPING WAS GRANTED.

I'M SURE SOME WAGNER WILL SAY IT'S AN OBVIOUS IDEA.

YOU'D BETTER CLICK SOMETHING OR I HAVE TO SHIP YOU SOME BOOKS.

IM DOCUMENTING EVERYTHING YOU DO SO I CAN EASILY FIRE YOU SOMEDAY.

THAT'S ONE BIG STATE OF MINDS PAGE JUST CAUGHT UP.

THAT'S MY HISTORY FINAL 3. I ADO THE HISTORY FINAL.

I WAS SO ON TOP OF THE MATERIAL IT FELT LIKE SOMETHING THEY'D GIVE TO FREMIONIC.

SAY, WHY DON'T WE TRY IT TODAY? TODAY WAS OUR PRACTICE FINAL... TONIGHT IS HISTORY.

YOU CAN STOP RESUSCITATING THE ganze MIXTURE. FINAL'S WEEK IS HERE. THEY SHOULDN'T CALL IT Finally Week.

SPEAKING OF HISTORY... WHAT WAS YOUR P.A.? 

THE FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR MORALE IMPROVEMENT AWARD GOES TO ED.

GRAIJ IT'S ONLY $290 AFTER TAXES!!!

GREANY EVERY PERSON ON EARTH SAID THAT?

APPARENTLY WE'VE BEEN HAD THE WHOLE TIME.

IF I COULD TURN INVISIBLE I WOULDN'T NEED TO MAKE DECISIONS.

I GUESS WE'RE DONE.

SELF, HERE'S YOUR TEST: GOOD LUCK. EILEEN, HERE'S YOUR TEST: GOOD LUCK.

STASH, HERE'S YOUR TEST: I DON'T GET A GOOD LUCK.

MARVIN, HERE'S YOUR TEST: GOOD LUCK. EILEEN, HERE'S YOUR TEST: GOOD LUCK.

MARVIN, HERE'S YOUR TEST: GOOD LUCK.

ACK! SUMMER VACATION!

ACK! SUMMER FREEDOM!

THREE MONTHS WITHOUT ANYTHING TO DO! ISN'T THAT WHAT WE WANT?

THE WORLD IS READY TO EXPLORE! TO TAKE!

THE WORLD IS READY TO EXPLORE! TO TAKE!

THE WORLD IS READY TO EXPLORE! TO TAKE!

THE WORLD IS READY TO EXPLORE! TO TAKE!

THE WORLD IS READY TO EXPLORE! TO TAKE!

TOO LATE, I'M WATCHING TV.

YOU CAN STOP RESUSCITATING. WE NEED HELP WITH THIS DECISION!

YOU MEAN FINISHED!

OH, WAIT, LET ME SPEAK OF HISTORY.

WHAT WAS YOUR P.A.?

SAY, WHY DON'T WE TRY IT TODAY? TODAY WAS OUR PRACTICE FINAL... TONIGHT IS HISTORY.

YOU CAN STOP RESUSCITATING. I'M TALKING TO THE ENTIRE PLANET.

YOU CAN STOP RESUSCITATING.

YOU CAN STOP RESUSCITATING.

YOU CAN STOP RESUSCITATING.

YOU CAN STOP RESUSCITATING.

YOU CAN STOP RESUSCITATING.

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YOU CAN STOP RESUSCITATING.

YOU CAN STOP RESUSCITATING.
Seven days, seven days, and who is counting? Lots of you seniors I suppose, impatient to get on with the rest of your lives. But please believe me, if you can, the last 4 years will turn out to have been some of the best years of your life. That does not mean that things are going to be pretty crummy from now on, only that it will take a bit of distance for you to realize that what you have just lived through was indeed a high. Whether you realize this or not, the great day is approaching (tic... toc...), and with new beginnings, or as we say in French, “Commencement.” We could also say “Debuts,” but that brings to mind a rather more social affair. I don’t think that calling you graduates debuts and debutants will change the right message.

In spite of the exceptional educational opportunities that you have had at Caltech, there are things that we did not teach you, things that are essential for success and maybe even for survival in the outside world. So it is high time that I try to remedy this failing. Sit up already and listen.

It is crucial for you to recognize that in the outside world (yes there is one), time has a different value than in the golden confines between Wilson and Hill and Del Mar and California. Yes, Caltech is bigger than mammion, no more Coffee House with the best shakes in the West and the most accommodating hours. Gone too will be the safety nets, the ever approachable RAs to whom to pour your heart out. Gone will be these people down the hall with whom to talk, play games, do homework with and who knows what else. Gone the camaraderie of the Glee clubs, and the comradeship of waiters, gone the company of fellow Interface athletes. Gone, all gone. You yourself not, but building all of these things from scratch and/or be satisfied remis niscing with your fellow alumni.

Of course you’ll argue that from here on you’re free to play something else besides the College of the Walkyries (Editor's note: or perhaps the Ride of the Valkyries) at top volume. No one will interfere with your parties, at least you think, however raucous they’ll get. Kid yourself not. It is above all these things that will be missed. But that brings to mind a rather more social affair.

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### Tic, Tech

by Jean-Paul Reve

we have outliving field beyond these boundaries, but these few blocks are where the time anomaly is most developed. In spite of what has been your custom for the past 4 years, it is imperative that you now relearn that post-professional activities take place between 9am and 5pm, Monday through Friday.

Caltech is lenient to a fault in allowing you latitude in choosing, let’s call it, your personal longevity. When it is midnight here many of you behave as if you were living 120 degrees East of here. But in the world into which we are about to release you, this schedule definitely won’t do. It could be reason enough to be fired. There are few jobs where working hours so disconnected from the norm would be tolerated. So, if you are terminally time shifted, find yourself another line of work. Night watchman, Policeman, Emergency vehicle driver, Attendant at an all night gas station, or reform. I suppose you could also move to Europe and tic toc as if you were at Tech.

Come to think of it, there is another solution. That is to work for the right technology company. I understand that many companies all but ask their employees to live at their work. At Telline, apparently one of the brightest start ups in Silicon Valley, I understand that some executives have bunk beds built over their desks—shades of the House you
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Additional HSS Course Announcement for Full Term 2000-01: Lit 129 Austen, Bronn. An introduction to four of the most important English writers of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Understanding these novelists as a tradition, we will pay particular attention to formal developments in the novel from the marriage plot through modernism. Jane Austen, Charlotte and Emily Bronte, and Virginia Woolf's major works- including but not limited to Emma, Persuasion, Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights, Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse. Instructor: King T1H 1:20-30

The McKinney Committee of the Caltech Literature Faculty has announced the winners of the 2000 contest for excellence in writing. In the category of prose fiction, first prize has been awarded to David Hockaday. In the category of non-fiction essay, first prize is awarded to Kit Kee Chin. The poetry prize was won by Stephen Walshaw. The Thespias Smith Competition (for the finest essay devoted to Shakespeare) was won jointly by Jim Wong and Robert Swinney.

RELOCATION: Effective Monday, May 8, 2000, The Bugwell Office will relocate from the first floor of Keith Spalding Building (Business Services), Room 116, to 363 South Hill Street and occupy the first Floor of the new Hill House. The New Mail Code for the Bursar's Office will be 3-7. The telephone and fax numbers for The Bursar's Office will remain the same. Please note that the Disbursement Audit Office has been moved to the garage structure in the back of the Hill House. Additionally, a new Sat-ellite Cashier's Office will be operational for Personal Accounts only in the garage structure of 363 So Hill Street. The Satellite Cashier's Mail Code will be 4-7 and the telephone number will be (626) 395-2482. Only a minimal disruption in services on the morning of Fri- day, May 5, 2000 is anticipated.

The final Beginning Night Club Two Step class originally scheduled for Mon May 29 has been rescheduled to Fri, July 30 9:00pm in Winnett Lounge. For further information see www.calech.edu/bdc2/bdc2.html. Don @ 626791-3103.

Halsey Rodman's art installation entitled "One and Many Souls," which includes sculpture and photographs, will be on view at Caltech's Outdoor Art Space until July 9. The art site is located behind the Campus Recycling Center on Holliston Avenue.

Local indie rock label looking for intern for sales, marketing, internet and promotions. Looking for motivated self starter who is resourceful and responsible. Computer skills a plus! Serious inquires only please. Email: vsricher@netcom.com URL: www.vorsicher.com. Telephone number: 583-4711

CIM Vision International, an E-Commerce company based in Long Beach, California, is seeking talented individuals with a passion for software development in Windows 2000 COM+Java/ASP. Immediate openings are available. Candidates must show attention to detail in their work, have good oral and written communication skills and demonstrate that they work well under pressure as well as in a fast paced team environment. Preference will be given to those candidates that have experience with C++, MFC, COM/DCOM/COM+, ATL, Java, SQL and UML. Please send resume and a cover letter to: Human Resources, CIM Vision International 300 OceanGate, Suite 1500, Long Beach, CA 90802.

Due to recent vandalism, Cleveland Elementary School in Pasadena is seeking donations of books and equipment for the school's library. Specifically, the school is in need of two overhead projectors and books appropriate for grades K-6 to replace those stolen or destroyed. Donations may be made directly to Cleveland Elementary School at 524 Pasadena Street, Pasadena, California, 91103. For questions or further information, please contact Principal Abel Quesada at 626-794-7169 or Laura Biedebach in the office of Congressman James E. Rogan at 626-557-3969.

Ride your bicycle to Caltech? Register with Caltech's CYCLOCOMMUTERS http://www.cyclocommuters.caltech.edu or call 626/791-8000. Monthly random drawing for a $300 gift certificate to a local bike store and free tune up and extras at the Commuter Fair Day, May 19th! If you are a distance rider, log in your miles for an extra chance to win additional prizes every 6 months.

Hawking. Advance Tickets Available Now. Caltech is host- ing KipFest, a symposium on the occasion of the theoretical astrophysicist Kip Thorne's 60th-Birthday, June 1 to 3, 2000, to honor his career in physics, and his commitment to the communication and popularization of science and science education. Early admission tickets for the Saturday Science Sessions are available now at the Caltech Ticket Office for students, fac- ulty, staff and JPL employees, with a limit of two per I.D. These early admission tickets provide guaranteed seating if presented by 9:30 a.m. There are limited number of tickets, available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information on tickets, please contact the Caltech Ticket Office at ext. 4652.

45th Annual Service Awards Ceremony, Tues., June 6, 6 p.m. Auditorium, 10 to 11 a.m. — A reception will follow in Dabney Gardens.


106th Annual Commencement. Friday, June 9, Beckman Mall, 10 a.m. to noon — The speaker will be author Ray Bradbury.

Keswick Society Lecture. Sun., June 11, Baxter Lecture Hall, 2 p.m. — "Denying History: Who Says the Holocaust Never Happened and Why Do They Say It?" Dr. Michael Shermer, author, publisher, and Skeptical Society founder. Information is $8 for nonmembers, and $5 for members and non-Caltech students. The lecture is free to the Caltech/JPL community. Information: 794-3119.

Caltech/MIT Enterprise Forum, Sat., June 17, Baxter Lecture Hall, continental breakfast and registration, 7-9 a.m. — "Wireless Internet: The Next Gold Rush." A panel of experts will discuss the Wireless Internet, and review the plans and progress of successful and emerging Wireless Internet content and software ventures. Admission is $40 ($10 for non Caltech students; free to Caltech students and faculty), and pre-registration is required. Information: 395-3916.

The 12th annual NASA Planetary Science Summer School offers student scientists and engineers the unique opportunity to design a space explo- ration mission in one week. “Discovery Micromissions: Focused Low Cost Science” is scheduled for August 7-11, 2000, in Pasadena, California. The program is directed toward PhD candidates and recent PhD graduates. For more information on the program and an applica- tion form, please visit http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/psy/sscl. The deadline for applications is June 11, 2000. Questions on science content may be directed to Ms. Anita Sohats at JPL. (818) 546-6113, or anita.m.sohats@jpl.nasa.gov.

Scholarship

The Collegiate Inventors Competition, a program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, is handing out money — big money—to college inven- tors and their advisors. Each winning student - or student team - receives $24,000 cash prize. Faculty advisors each receive a $10,000 cash prize. The competition, open all full-time college students and judged by distinguished scientists and in- ventors from across the country, awards up to six prizes each year. The deadline for applica- tions is June 1, 2000. In addition to cash prizes, winners and their advisors will travel to the induction ceremony of the Na- tional Inventors Hall of Fame on September 8-9, 2000. During the weekend, winners will be honored and have the chance to learn from the greatest scientific minds of our time who visit the Hall of Fame each year for the induction festivities. Applications are available at www.invent.org/college.

The Jewish Loan Association is offering interest-free student loans to qualified individu- als for tuition, books and sup- plies, and living expenses. Applica- tions must have completed a minimum of one year of undergraduate study and have a 2.5 GPA or above. For further in- formation, please contact the Jewish Free Loan Association at 213-761-8803 or 818-464-3331.

The John Gyles Education Fund is offering scholarship awards up to $3,000 for the 2000-01 academic year. Applicant must be Canadian or U.S. citizens, have a 2.7 GPA or above, and demonstrate finan- cial need. Criteria other than strictly academic ability and fi- nancial need are considered in the selection process. To request an application, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The John Gyles Education Fund, Attn: The Secretary, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Dr., Fredericton, News Brunswick, Canada E3B 5G4. Filing dates for mailing documents in 2000 are April 1, June 1, and Novem- ber 15.

The Department of Defense hosts three student internship programs at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. These include: the International, the Teratool Simulation Technology (http://www.llnl.gov/strsr/strsr.html), Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative (ASCI) Pipeline Program (www.llnl.gov/taccl/index.html), and Graduate Inter- ns in Nuclear Weapons (www.education.llnl.gov/quit). Housing and salary are at competi- tive rates. For more informa- tion, contact Barry Goldman, 925-422-5177, or goldman@llnl.gov.

Information and applications for 2000 Summer Work-Study are available in the Finan- cial Aid Office. If you are inter- ested in participating in the 2000 Summer Work-Study, please submit the required applica- tion as soon as possible, but no later than June 1, 2000. If awarded, work-study funding will begin July 5, 2000.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact mint@caltech.edu or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submissions should be brief and concise. Email is preferred. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Deadline is noon Wednesday. Unsolicited, all notes will run for two weeks.

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