Hollywood Hit Again

By GALEN LORAM

Hollywood had not been hit since May of 1987. That was when the 100th anniversary of Caltech's founding, Caltech students altered the Hollywood sign to read "Caltech" instead of "Hollywood.

Since then, the Arclight Dome, the Capitol Records building and other prime targets to the West have sung their siren song to pranksters, some of whom have even thought up and started various plans but never executed them. Years ago, one party attempted to bring a hot dog cart and excavate underneath it, but that plan fell through.

In planning this new caper we discarded several ideas despite their initial appeal: we thought about trying to prank the Oscars but realized that it would be easier to clean out Fort Knox than to smuggle a disposable camera into the Oscars; we considered fixing up the "City of South Pasadena" sign but realized that changing a couple of rocks by a freeway isn't sufficiently epic.

Similarly, when we were looking for a senior prank to pull, we too thought about Hollywood, specifically about the stars, not J. Lo, Sean Connery or even Johnny Deep, but the perfectly gaudy red-white-and-pink stars with golden lettering on Hollywood Boulevard. We started by crafting about 600 pieces of adhesive paper about the size and shape of bumper stickers. We color-matched them as best we could to the stars and wrote on them names of famous scientists: old dead folks like Galileo and Van der Waals, Caltech faculty like Baltimore and Thorne and people who fit both categories like Feynman. We even included a couple living worthies from outside Caltech like Baltimore, faculty member, has written various books including Euclid's Window and Feynman's Rainbow, and has helped develop computer games.

Often, one of the most difficult tasks for scientists is to communicate their research to the general public in a compelling manner, an issue they meet each year at the annual Science Writing Symposium sponsored by Words Matter. The Third Annual Science Writing Symposium will occur on Monday May 16 at 8 PM in Sharp Auditorium in 155 Arms Laboratory.

It is important for people to understand the potential of science and appreciate what people are doing," said Steve Young, Director of the Havem Writing Center and Chair of the Words Matter Program.

The Third Annual Science Writing Symposium will feature a panel consisting of Professor Christof Koch, author Leonard Mlodinow, and Margaret Wertheim.

Koch, a Caltech Professor of Cognitive and Behavioral Biology and Executive Officer for Computation and Neural Systems, has authored numerous scientific papers and several books. During the symposium, he will speak of his experience as a scientific writer for the general public who does not need to write books for a living.

"I hope that it will inspire at least some students to take up the important role of public communicators, to explain why doing science is so enjoyable," said Koch. Mlodinow, a former Caltech faculty member, has written various books including Euclid's Window and Feynman's Rainbow, which is about his time at Caltech and his interaction with Feynman. Working with Stephen Hawking, Mlodinow has coauthored the upcoming book A Briefer History of Time. In addition to books, Mlodinow has also written for television, including scripts of Star Trek: The Next Gen, and has helped develop computer games.

Wertheim has written pieces for such notable publications as The New York Times, The Guardian, Wired and Vogue, along with television documentaries and three books. Her "Quick Brown Fox" column appears in every issue of In the Loop, an LA Weekly. She even founded the Institute for Figuring, which works on creatively presenting science to the public.

Starting three years ago, the symposium has exposed students to the challenge and to methods

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Scurves Piss on, Honor Grand Old Hovse Tradition

By ADAM CRAIG

05/09/05—The Dabney Hovse courtyard erupted in song this Sunday night, a little after 2200 hours. A band of swaggering, swaying, snarling, warbling scurves belted out hoary old Rickettes favorites like "Sing a Song of Sixty-Nine" and "Oh Say Can You See." Dabnehian extremist cells attacked the boistrous expedition with garden hoses and spare fire extinguishers, but the Scurves rallied, counterattacked, commandeered their enemies’ weapons and kept singing all the while. Thus passed the opening skirmish of Polish Constitution Day Eve, a celebration of the independence of one of Europe’s most dependent nations. Scurves will travel to other houses throughout the week, spreading joy and reverse paristalsis wherever they go. The Rickettes social team has prepared a tentative schedule that will include Christmas in Dabney, Donuts in Page, Measuring Rudder’s Wins, counting Flems, bowling with Lloydies, Whack-A-Mole, the Saturday Polack Contest and a special surprise for Avery’s PCDE as a horse.

Sleep Deprivation

By JEFFREY PHILLIPS

A common tool of unsavory military regimes for torture and brainwashing, sleep deprivation is a fixture of Tech. When forced to choose between work, play and sleep, students jettison the last first. Many profess their best to accommodate our sun-shunning by scheduling review sessions late in the evenings. This term I am going to classes at nine in the morning for the first time in over a year. The average Techer gets less than six hours of sleep in a given weeknight, and the consequences of our nocturnal remission deserves consideration.

As any kid on a sleep-over can vouch, the initial stages of sleep deprivation are salutary. As focus loosens, so do some creative rants. Jokes are funnier; ideas are wilder; the world takes on a rosy hue. The eyes dry out but no matter. This is the sweet spot of recreational sleep deprivation typical to Techers. The student in Blacker House plugging a diode into the wall at 4:00AM, has probably not slept in a while and is loving it.

Prolonged sleep deprivation results in less enjoyable effects. If you have stayed up an entire night after a long day of classes to finish up a homework set and are now struggling through the last few problems so you can rush to turn it in, in place of that bouncy feeling from being a little tired is a blunting core temperature.

The morning sun shines on a numbed world. You have gone hours without eating. If you crash, you will stay down for hours. For the sake of your waking stomach, there is little anyone of us, the administration included, to combat our collective insom­nia. That is not necessarily a bad thing, though. Sleep deprivation for fun and profit is an integral part of the Techer way of life, and most of the time it is our own fault by choice or consequence of poor planning. It is a lesson in time management as well as training for all those sleepless nights guaranteed in our lives as scientists or as professionals and especially as parents.

We Love Coquettish Kahlitech Bread Life by Adam Craig

promoting an Event?

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The Sweeter Side of Cell Signaling: O-GlcNAc Glycosylation in the Brain

The third and final 2004-2005 Everhart Lecture, "The Sweeter Side of Cell Signaling: O-GlcNAc Glycosylation in the Brain," will be given by Nelly Kishkinkel, a Caltech graduate student in Chemistry. The lecture will be held in 101 Guggenheim (Lees-Kubota Lecture Hall) on Thursday, May 5 at 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served at 3:45 p.m. For more information on the lectures, see www.its.caltech.edu/~els. Sponsored by the Graduate Student Council, the Graduate Office, Campus Life, and Graduate Housing.

Abstract:
Fewer than 30,000 genes orchestrate the workings of human cells. These genes encode the proteins which conduct the myriad activities necessary for life. Chemical modifications of these proteins play a critical role in regulating their cellular functions. We study one such modification, known as O-GlcNAc glycosylation. The addition of this single sugar, beta-N-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc), to proteins has been linked to nutrient sensing and gene expression. Moreover, the enzyme that transfers the sugar is abundant in the brain, and the modification has been linked to neurodegenerative diseases. Understanding the dynamic modification of these neuronal proteins has been hampered by the difficulty in detecting it. To address this challenge, we developed a strategy which incorporates a mutant enzyme and an unnatural substrate for rapid and sensitive detection of O-GlcNAc-modified proteins. Coupling our approach to mass spectrometry yielded the first direct, wide-scale identification of O-GlcNAc proteins in the brain. Our studies have identified O-GlcNAc on proteins associated with neurotransmitter release and the formation of nerve cell structures important for learning and memory. Currently, we are investigating the dynamic regulation of O-GlcNAc in the brain in an attempt to understand its role in nerve cell function and neurodegeneration.

COMMENTARY

PACIFIC SERENADES
WORLD PREMIERES
NEW WORK BY
MIGUEL DEL AGUILA

Noted Chamber Music Ensemble Also Performs Mozart and Poulenc in Final Program of 19th Season

Saturday, May 21, 8 p.m., private home, Brentwood Sunday, May 22, 4 p.m., Neighborhood Church in Pasadena Tuesday, May 24, 8 p.m., UCLA Faculty Center, Westwood

The world premiere of Miguel del Aguilá’s Latin Love, a new work for wind quintet and piano, is presented by Pacific Serenades in the final series of its 19th season beginning Saturday, May 21, 8 p.m., at the Brentwood home of Bonnie MacBird and Alan Kay. The program, which also includes Mozart’s Quintet in Eb major, K. 452 for oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn and piano and Poulenc’s Sextet for wind quintet and piano, will be repeated on Sunday, May 22, 4 p.m., at the Neighborhood Church in Pasadena and on Tuesday, May 24, 8 p.m., at the UCLA Faculty Center in Westwood. Titled “Music, when soft voices die, vibrates in the memory” (Percy Bysshe Shelley), the series features Pacific Serenades Founder/Artistic Director Mark Carlson, flautist Allan Vogel, oboe, Gary Grey, clarinet, Judith Farmer, bassoon, Brian O’Connor, horn, and Ayke Agus, piano. “Miguel del Aguilá’s lively new work is based on a Latin American dance rhythmic reminiscence of his native land, Uruguay,” says Carlson. “We have teamed it with one of Mozart’s greatest works and Poulenc’s most charming piece, making this program one of the season’s most exciting.”

CONCERT LOCATIONS/TICKET INFORMATION
Pacific Serenades concerts are supported in part by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Additional support comes from the Alhambra Foundation, the laura Turner Scott Foundation, ASCAP, the California Arts Council, the Clarence E. Heller Foundation and UCLA. The UCLA Faculty Center is located at 405 N. Hilgard Ave. (at Hilgard and Westholme), Westwood. The Pasadena Neighborhood Church is located at 301 E. Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena. Tickets are $29 for the UCLA Faculty Center concerts and $50 for the private home concerts. Student and senior discounts are available. "Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram and Twitter for promotions. For more information and tickets, go to www.pacser.org.

Blitz Chess

The Caltech Chess Club will host its third annual blitz chess championship in the Page House Dining Hall from 8-10:45 PM on Friday, May 20. Participation is free and open to players of all skill levels in the Caltech community. There will be a $400 guaranteed prize fund: $200, $100, $50, and special prizes for novices ($35, $15). To play in the tournament, please contact club president Patrick Hummel (hummel@its.caltech.edu) or arrive 15 minutes early for the event.

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Write for the tech. You pay actual money. $20 for articles, $12 for comics, $5 for photos. No experience necessary. If you want to write news, we’ll give you an assignment. Remember all those times you thought you had better ideas than the people writing commentary, well, send them in. For writing books on philosophy on McGiddies, Jeff Phillips got enough cash to buy many McGiddies. You can too.

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All it takes to join is a $5 deposit in our high-risk, federally insured savings account, and a 25¢ membership fee. Just visit our on-campus bench.

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Friday, May 13 at 8:00 PM
In Ramo Auditorium
HOOKSLIDE is a vocal band based out of San Francisco, CA. They perform a high energy mix of mind blowing vocal percussion, booming bass and screaming four-part harmony guaranteed to rock your socks off.

Free!

Come hear: Out of Context rock out, too.

Funded generously through the Moore-Huston-Felde Fund
Your Mail Follows
All Possible Paths to Destination with New Feynman Stamp

By DEBORAH WILLIAMS-HEDGES

Widely regarded as one of the most influential physicists of the 20th Century, Nobel laureate and Caltech professor Richard P. Feynman will be honored on a 2005 U.S. commemorative stamp, the first effort by the U.S. Postal Service to depict the brilliant mind of a living scientist in the native stamp. The stamp will be unveiled locally at a celebration on Friday, May 6, 2005, at the 50th Annual Symposium on the Caltech campus.

The public is invited to attend this free event. Caltech will also open the public to a special commemorative envelope bearing the four stamps that compose the Amercia Now! set, and a special cancellation stamp from the Feynman Station at Caltech. Stamps and cachets, as well as Feynman books and memorabilia, will be available for purchase.

At 4 p.m. there will be a screening of the classic documentary featuring the thoughts and perspectives of the brilliant Richard P. Feynman (1918-1988) and a reading of Finding Things Out, also in Ramo Auditorium on the Caltech campus. The public is invited to attend.

Four stamps come together in a celebration of Dr. Richard Feynman, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1965 for his contributions to quantum electrodynamics and was also a charismatic teacher and amateur artist. The stamp issue will be send out by the U.S. Postal Service on May 6, 2005.

The California Institute of Technology has designed the partnership of the Office of Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) and Richard Meier & Partners as the principal architects, and Gruen + Partners as the design consultant. Tatzu Nishi will lead the design team. Gruen + Partners has led the design team on several other U.S. projects, including the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

OMA's design concept is based on a comparison of the effects of a well-designed building on a university campus. The university environment, with its unique characteristics, will give the project a distinctive identity.

The design of the building will be a reflection of the university's culture and values. The project's goal is to create a place where students, faculty, and visitors can come together to share ideas and knowledge.

In terms of the design, the building will be a structure that is both functional and aesthetically pleasing. The exterior will feature a series of glass walls that allow natural light to enter the interior space. The interior will be designed to accommodate a variety of activities, including lectures, meetings, and student projects.

The project will be a symbol of the university's commitment to excellence in education and research. The building will serve as a focal point for the university community, providing a place for students to study, faculty to conduct research, and visitors to learn about the university's activities.

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