

## All-Day Parking in Golden Gate Park to End City to Impose Time Limits in Bid to Get Commuters Out of the Park

by Tim Neagle

**H**undreds of UCSF commuters face an end to free parking in the coming months. The City of San Francisco is about to restrict parking in Golden Gate Park near the Parnassus campus to three or four hours each day.

"It's a done deal," said UCSF Parking Director Jon Gledhill. New parking signs will be installed in the park in the coming weeks. The length of time permitted to park will be either three or four hours, depending on the location in the park.

Gledhill explained that the move to limit parking is part of the Golden Gate Park Master Plan. The plan was approved by

voters as Proposition J a few years ago. At the time, most of the attention was focused on the building of an underground parking structure in the park for the soon-to-be rebuilt De Young Museum. But as part of the plan that includes that parking structure, the city will eliminate all-day street parking in the park near UCSF.

Why the move to get commuters out of the park? Gledhill said the city is anxious that people using the park's attractions around the Music Concourse — the California Academy of Sciences, Steinhart Aquarium, the DeYoung Museum, and the Japanese Tea Garden, among oth-

ers — be able to park nearby. Unfortunately, that is also the area most heavily used by UCSF students and employees to park their cars.

It is not certain exactly when the new parking signs will go up in the park, but the best guess is sometime soon. Once these parking limits are in place, UCSF commuters will face a dilemma.

"We've painted ourselves into a corner," acknowledged Gledhill.

The University of California has obtained 50 permits to the Kezar parking lot (costing \$125 a month), but it has not yet been determined how those permits will be distributed. And obviously, 50 parking places are a drop in the bucket compared to the number of UCSF students and employees currently parking in Golden Gate Park.

Alternatives are few and basically boil down to the following:

- Leave your car at home and take mass transit.
- Continue to park in the park, but move your car every three or four hours.



• Park farther out in the park and take Muni into UCSF.

• Park in the surrounding neighborhoods, which also have time limits on parking.

"There's no real good solution," Gledhill said, adding that he expected news of the parking limits to be highly controversial on campus. Life for car commuters to

UCSF "is about to get a lot less convenient," he said.

Once word gets around campus about the parking move, reaction is expected to be strongly negative. The commuters I have spoken to in connection with this story have all reacted in roughly the following ways:

"What!!!!???? You're kidding!"

"That sucks!"

"No! They can't do that! How will I get to work now?"

But one student had a different take. He was struck by a window display of photos of the park taken during the week (filled with cars) and on the weekend (when autos are barred from large sections of the park) and he found the latter view more pleasing. "It should be a park, not a garage," he said.

No matter what the reaction, the parking changes are definitely coming. Stay tuned for future developments.



One solution: park farther out and jog to UCSF. Photos by Brad Morikawa.

### health & science update

by Dustin Mark

#### Estrogen on the brain

Estrogen is a ubiquitous hormone, made by both men and women. With the growth of research directed towards female physiology and disease, our understanding of the functions of estrogen has likewise grown, but is not nearly complete. While research has revealed many roles for estrogen, as a player in the reproductive cycle or a regulator of bone formation, much still remains to be learned about the function of this versatile hormone.

One of the least understood functions of estrogen is its effect on the brain. Evidence points towards a role for estrogen in maintaining memory, and perhaps even in preventing neurodegenerative disease. However, basic science and clinical studies have had a difficult time in reaching agreements with regards to these associations.

Several reports presented recently at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience offer new evidence for estrogen's role in brain function that may help quell (or contribute to) confusion over the matter. Some summaries of the reports:

• Using the selective estrogen receptor modulator (SERM) raloxifene, currently used for the treatment of osteoporosis, researchers found that the drug was able to enhance verbal recall in women with Alzheimer's Disease (AD), compared to placebo-treated control subjects. While the improvement was not as great as that seen using estrogen in a previous study, raloxifene may serve useful for improving memory in AD patients who are unable or prefer not to use estrogens.

• So if estrogen is useful in treating the symptoms of AD, might it be useful as a prophylactic agent? Researchers from Washington University looked at a cohort of cognitively healthy post-menopausal women who were using estrogen as a part of their hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Over a period of only three months, women who were using HRT had significantly better verbal recall testing ability than those women who received placebo therapy. Some diminished benefit was noted if testosterone was included with estrogen in the HRT, but progesterone combined

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## Let's Get Literary

Always wanted to see your literary work in print? Here's your chance. On February 7, *Synapse* will be publishing a special literary edition. We are asking members of the campus community — students, faculty and staff — to share poetry, short stories, plays, whatever, with our readers.

No submission will be turned away. (OK, we won't publish any libelous or hateful material, and the 900-page manuscript of your Great American Novel is probably too hefty for us to handle. But beyond that — you write it, we'll print it!)

Deadline is Monday, February 4, although any earlier submissions will be met with high favor by our editors.

So come on, let your inner artist shine through and share your literary efforts with *Synapse*.



## UCSF announcements

### Financial Aid

2002-03 financial aid deadline reminder: Students applying for Stafford and university-based loans (Perkins, University, Nursing) — Option B funding — have a February 1 deadline to submit the FAFSA and UCSF financial aid application. You can estimate income and tax figures for the FAFSA. A complete, signed copy of your (and spouse's) federal tax return, if filing, is needed by February 28. The Student Financial Services Office (SFSO) will make adjustments in your income figures once you submit the federal tax return. Students applying for Option A funding (Stafford only) don't have to submit their materials until spring.

2001 federal tax returns: A limited supply of the most commonly needed federal tax returns and schedules are available in the lobby of MU, second floor, near the elevators.

Scholarships: The Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara offers funds to students who have graduated from a high school in Santa Barbara county. These scholarships are available to dental, medical, pharmacy, and graduate students. To obtain an application, send a double-stamped self-addressed #10 envelope to: Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara, PO Box 3620, Santa Barbara, CA 93130. The deadline is January

31, 2002. For more information go to: [www.sbscholarship.org](http://www.sbscholarship.org)

SFSO (MU 201, 476-4181) is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to answer your financial aid questions. If you need more than five minutes with a drop-in adviser, please call to schedule an appointment.

### Student Academic Enrichment Programs

Now enrolling:

Course #1: "Working with Data Using Excel and Visual Basic for Applications: A Task-Oriented Approach for Efficient Analysis and Visualization of Data."

Excel is a ubiquitous and useful program for doing data analysis of moderate scale. Excel can be programmed, using Visual Basic for Applications (VBA), to do repetitive and/or complex tasks very efficiently. The goal of this class is to learn several useful (and easily modifiable) programmed tasks for Excel to make data analysis, visualization, and tabulation more efficient and less error prone.

Wednesdays, February 6-March 6 (5 sessions)

N735 (Nursing Computer Lab), 5:30-7:30 p.m.

\$20 for Students, \$35 for Postdocs (similar courses outside UCSF can run over \$500!)

Registration Deadline: Friday, February 1st, or until course is full.

For information on who should take this course and course prerequisites, see <http://saawwww.ucsf.edu/enrich>

To register: contact Jenny Phelps at [jenny@saa.ucsf.edu](mailto:jenny@saa.ucsf.edu)

### Course #2 : "Practical Strategies for Organizing and Writing Your Thesis"

This 4 hour workshop covers essential "nuts and bolts" topics such as:

- Where to begin on your thesis and how to keep going
- How to move from research to writing, to revising, to finishing
- Practical advice on organizing, outlining, and setting realistic goals
- How to develop effective relations with faculty evaluators

Saturday, January 26, HSW303, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

FREE

Registration Deadline: Friday, January 25

For information on who should take this course see

<http://saawwww.ucsf.edu/enrich>

To register: contact Dan Judd at [dan@saa.ucsf.edu](mailto:dan@saa.ucsf.edu)

### Vocal Chords Winter Concert

Friday, January 25  
8 p.m., Toland Hall  
Admission: FREE!

## grand rounds and seminars

Thursday, January 17

Dept. of Medicine

N225, noon-1 p.m.

"Updates in General Internal Medicine"

Eliseo Perez-Stable, MD

Friday, January 18

The Children's Center at Langley Porter

Langley Porter Auditorium, Room 190, 10:30-noon

"Developmental Relationship Based Approach to Therapeutic Education: Theoretical Perspectives and Developing Model"

Barbara Kalmanson, PhD

Tuesday, January 22

Dept. of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences

N217, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

"Misepristone: For Med Ab and Beyond"

Alisa Goldberg, M.D.,

Wednesday, January 23

Dept. of Surgery

Toland Hall, 7-8 a.m.

"Living Donor Liver Transplantation"

John P. Roberts, MD

Dept. of Endocrinology

Langley Porter Auditorium (LPP1 190), 8:30 a.m.

"Adaption and Decomposition of Beta Cells in the Diabetic State"

Gordon C. Weir, MD  
Harvard Medical School

Thursday, January 24

Dept. of Pediatrics

N217, 8-9 a.m.

"Not Just Cholesterol: Identifying Children at Risk for Future Heart Disease"

Mary Malloy, MD

DGIM Primary Care

400 Parnassus, 4th Floor, A455, 8-9 a.m.

Title to Be Announced

Amal Trivedi, MD

Dept. of Medicine

N225, noon-1 p.m.

"The Challenge of Islet Transplantation"

Gordon C. Weir, MD  
Harvard Medical School

## events, speakers, etc.

### Brown Bag Lunch

Wednesday, January 23, HSW300, noon-1 p.m.

Skiing Injuries: Prevention and Treatment

An overview of common skiing injuries during winter and what you can do to prevent them, presented by Marc Safran, MD, co-director, Sports Medicine; Associate Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery, UCSF Sports Medicine Institute; Surgeon, UCSF Medical Center

### Student Enrichment Series

Tuesday, January 22, Cole Hall, noon-1 p.m.

Martin Luther King Week Celebration — Keynote Address

Professor Leon Litwack is a Pulitzer Prize winner and an expert on the historic struggles of African Americans. He fully understands and convincingly portrays the harsh realities of our shameful past in "Been in the Storm So Long." His talk at UCSF will address the legacy of Jim Crow

and American race relations up to the present. He will remind us that the recent calls for unity and uncritical support of efforts to root out terrorism should not permit us to walk away from the problems that persist at home — poverty, injustice and racism.

Sponsored by the MLK Committee

### AIDS Seminar

San Francisco General Hospital, 1001 Potrero Avenue, bldg 3, 5th floor, 3-5 p.m., Monday, January 28

UCSF-GIVI CFAR presents AIDS research seminar, "Breakthroughs in Integrase Inhibitor Development"

Drs. Daria Hazuda, Tack Kuntz and Andy Leavitt.

Call 379-5602 ex. 1 for more details.

### The Gladstone Distinguished Lecture in Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology

Tuesday, January 29, 4 p.m.

Carr Auditorium, San Francisco General Hospital. Reception Follows in the Fifth Floor Conference Room of the Gladstone Institute.

Elaine Fuchs, PhD, of the University of Chicago will lecture on Genetic Disorders of the Cytoskeleton.

### Bay Area Vegetarian Fair

Saturday, February 9, 9 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Santa Clara Convention Center

Speakers, food samples, cooking demonstrations and more! For more information, call 408-249-3683 or visit [www.vegfair.com](http://www.vegfair.com)

### Entrepreneurs Meeting

The UCSF Entrepreneurs Discussion Group (EDG) meets every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in S20. EDG is a brainstorming meeting where the latest innovations in biotech and related fields are discussed and refined in roundtable format, with an eye towards potential commercialization of those ideas. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Contacts: KT Moortgat at [edg@mika-i.com](mailto:edg@mika-i.com) Peter Mui, 510 540 8318, [pmui@home.com](mailto:pmui@home.com)

### Impact! Presents©

General Info, 476-2675

The Chancellor's Concert Series

Winter 2002 Season

Thursdays, Jan. 10th through March 21st

Seating: noon to 12:15 p.m.

Concert: 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus Avenue

Admission is FREE.

January 17

William Wellborn, piano

Liszt: Petrarch Sonnet No. 104

"Dante Sonata"

### Impact! Presents

Cole Hall Cinema

Winter 2002 Season

Concessions sponsored by Courtyard Caffe, Bear Snacks, and UCSF Bookstore

Admission Prices: \$2.50-4

Located in the Medical Sciences Bldg., 513 Parnassus Avenue

Tickets available at the door only.

Box office opens 1/2 hr. before show time. (One discounted ticket per I.D. only)

Open to the General Public!

Cinema Hotline- 415-476-2675

Action Night!

TRAINING DAY R

Thurs. Jan. 17 5:45 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Fri. Jan. 18 6:30 p.m. & 8:45 p.m.

MLK Night

THE CELLULOID CLOSET not rated

Thurs. Jan. 24 5:45 p.m. & 7:45 p.m.

Fri. Jan. 25 6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.

Blues Orbit

UCSF's Winter Blues Series Featuring Bobby Webb and Band

Thursday, January 24, 2002, noon, Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus Avenue

Admission is FREE.

Don't miss your chance to see world class saxophone player, Bobby Webb at UCSF's Blue's Orbit Series. Webb has thrilled thousands of fans, from the Monterey Blues and Jazz festivals to local clubs. This January concert is part of UCSF's week-long Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. For more information, call Impact! at 415-476-2675.

Have an event you want listed on Page Two?

The deadline for each week is the preceding Friday: we publish every Thursday throughout the school year. Questions? Email [synapse@itsa.ucsf.edu](mailto:synapse@itsa.ucsf.edu) or phone 476-2211.

## outdoors

Outdoors Unlimited General Info, 415-476-2078

### Tahoe Snow Cabins on Sale

Rentals for the Tahoe cabins are ongoing at the OU center. Visit during open hours (Mon-Fri 5-8 p.m.). We have lots of mid-week availability. Mid-week means less traffic, less crowded slopes & even better prices! For more information or availability call the rental center during open hours. 415-476-2078.

### Discover Henry Coe State Park

Henry Coe is one of the Bay Area's most lovely & secret backpacking locales. Graceful rolling California ranch lands by moonlight, coyotes, wild hare, native California flora and a lot of wildlife. Pre-trip February 20, 7-9 p.m., trip March 1-3. Cost: \$50/61/72. For more info call 476-1469 or e-mail [efenster@casmail.ucsf.edu](mailto:efenster@casmail.ucsf.edu).



## opinion

## Chilling in the Library

by Alex Lee

OK, I admit it. I spend far too much time in the library. I study there, read my emails, write opinion articles and catch up on sleep. Not surprisingly, many of my good friends are permanent fixtures on the couches and tables of the second and fourth floors. It's sad to say, but many of the "dates" I have with my girlfriend end up in the library at 10:00 p.m. Although my medical education has only lasted a scant four months, I can count myself among the true Library Masters. And so, I have been forming a list of gripes and observations as I sit there, trying to study my Pulmonary Pharmacology.

**The Frozen Tundra of Kalmanovitz Library**

It is well known that regardless of the time of day or the weather outside, the inside of the library will be a chilling 60 or so degrees, plus the wind chill factor of the ever-blowing air vents. In fact, if I'm not mistaken, that's the air conditioner blasting at us in this frigid January weather, freezing the drool we leave on our syllabus during library naps.

When questioned about the icy conditions, the staff at the circulation desk replied that the thermostat for the library was elsewhere, and out of their control. Whoever is the thermostat master, we implore you: Give us heat! Or at the very least, turn off the air conditioning.

Perhaps library administration might realize that increasing the temperature of the library would increase studying and research endurance, leading to higher board scores and better research papers, which would catapult UCSF up in the prestigious *US News and World Report* rankings. As an added benefit, the incidence of campus-wide respiratory infections would drop.

**Not Too Bright**

To fit the chilly library climate (and to save a few bucks), somebody had the bright

idea to dim the library lights. To shave approximately 0.0001% off the annual UCSF electricity bill during this energy crisis, they instituted an "every-other-light" policy that is only enforced in major studying areas.

And yet, there is full lighting in the first floor study area, where there are currently no desks.

For quite a while, maintenance neglected replacing the individual lights on the desks, forcing students to engage in bulb thievery during busy times of midterms and finals. One has to wonder if that was a cost-cutting measure as well.

**Espresso Gestapo**

While copious amounts of money are being saved on the heating and the light, the library has made sure that it is well defended from the ravages of food and beverages. According to the folded fliers placed on every desk, supposedly something like six figures are spent yearly on damage to library materials from food and drink. Unfortunately for the library, caffeine and studying are two sides of the same coin, and so the pssssttt of soda cans opening will be forever present at the library.

I understand the duties and purposes of library security, although I do question some of the tactics they employ. For example, I have seen people kicked out of the library for violating the no-coffee rule. It seems that throwing the cup away is no longer sufficient.

Also, I question the practice of checking IDs at the second floor computer lab. It might be reasonable if there wasn't a seven-digit passcode at the door, or if I wasn't reading Asthma research articles, or perhaps if I looked a little suspicious and wasn't wearing a giant UCSF sweatshirt. What if I left my ID at home? Would I be removed

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## The True Legacy of Dr. King

by Tim Neagle

While cleaning out the *Synapse* office this past summer, we came across some UCSF yearbooks from the early 1960s. If you want to see the true impact of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., I invite you to come by and browse through the pages of these volumes. Looking at the photos of the eager young students of those days, it is easy to see the contrast between the UCSF of 40 years ago and now.

Simply put, almost all the students pictured in those old yearbooks are white males (except for the nursing students, who are almost exclusively white females).

Now, look around you in the classrooms of UCSF and see the results of the great civil rights struggle led by Dr. King and others. You'll see students of every color, every nationality; you'll see women as well as men in every school, you'll see people of every religion (including none at all), you'll see the whole spectrum of humanity.

That is the achievement of Dr. King and those who struggled for equality in the '60s and beyond.

That struggle continues, of course; minority groups, notably African Americans, continue to confront strong racial prejudice. But it is astonishing to look at those old yearbooks and realize how far as a university — and how far as a nation — we have come.

I do not mean to denigrate the UCSF students of the past. I am sure that almost all of the students in those old yearbooks went on to distinguished careers in the health professions — one of them was my own father. But for every white person pictured in those pages, I'm willing to bet there were many people of color who never got the opportunity to follow their dream of a health/science career.

That is why it is so important that we remember and celebrate Dr. King and the achievements of the civil rights movement next week. For the true legacy of that movement can be found right here on campus.

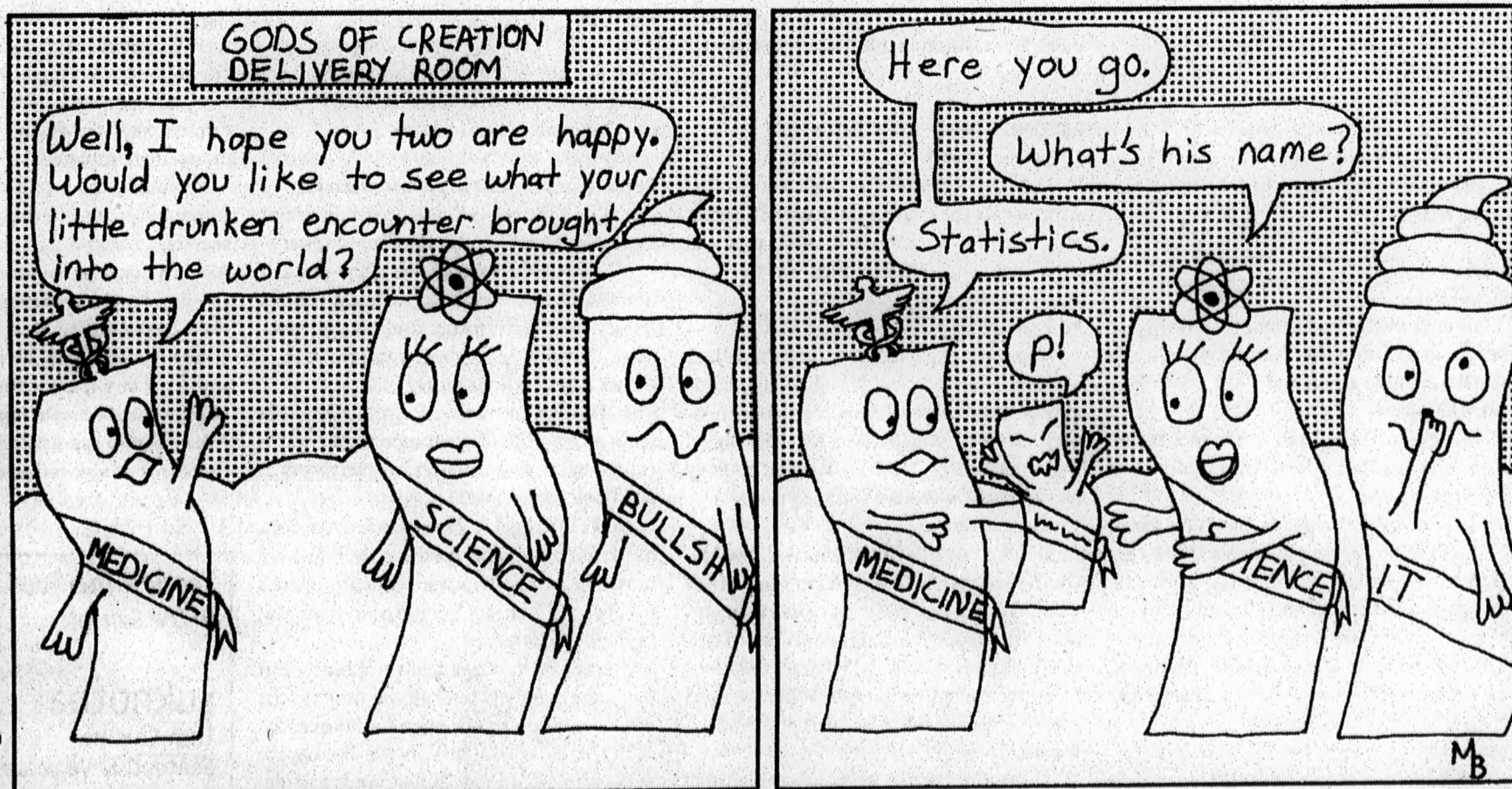
UCSF is no longer the nearly exclusive province of one race. Women are no longer denied opportunities in the schools other than nursing. Diversity is our hallmark now, and we are proud of how far we have come. We are determined to go even farther, until all vestiges of discrimination — be it based on race, gender, sexual preference, age, whatever — disappear from American life.

This campus is dedicated to the pursuit of scientific knowledge and the cultivation of rational thought. Thanks to Dr. King, we now realize that those goals are not for whites only. We are a better university for that realization.

For a schedule of events during MLK week at UCSF, see Page 7.

More opinions on page 6

**Quack**  
by Melinda Barnett



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# 2002: From Bioterror to Movies, a Look into the Uncertain Future

by Katherine Vo

Once again, the ball has dropped in Times Square. Americans are beginning to put behind the turbulent year of 2001 and look forward to a brand new year ... with uncertainties that linger from the past. The economy is in recession. Osama bin Laden is still at large. The airline industry could use a miracle on its way to recovery. What will 2002 bring to the U.S. and the world? CNN takes a quick look into the future of America in education, health, entertainment, law and politics, science and technology, travel, space, and around the world.

## EDUCATION

### Student loans

Will universities put more effort in minimizing student loan indebtedness?

### Test scores

Will schools across country be ready for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which links test scores to federal funding?

### School safety

How have security concerns affected the resources to improve school safety?

### Childhood obesity

What level of priority do schools put on physical education?

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Oscar race

Who's going to win the Oscar when there is no agreement on critics' and organizations' 10-best lists?

### 'Potter' fever

More 'Potter' fever as the fifth volume of J.K. Rowling's series is due out in late spring.

### 2002 box office king

Besides a second "Potter" and "Lord of the Rings," there are further chapters in the Austin Powers, James Bond, and "Men in Black" series — as well as "Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones."

### Music trend

Will pop music survive? Or could straight-up rock make a comeback?

### Impact of September 11?

How will Americans react to the event on screen?

## HEALTH

### Bioterrorism

Will we find ways to fight it, and will we be able to get our public health system up to speed to handle any crisis?

### Artificial organs

Will the artificial heart prove successful? If so, what are the odds of developing other artificial organs?

### Designer drugs that target specific faulty genes

Gleevec was approved in 2001 for leukemia. It works by targeting a specific gene that causes the cancer. It could soon be approved for a rare type of stomach cancer. Other drugs that work in similar fashion are in the pipeline. How will this change the nature of cancer treatment?

### Stem cells

Will there be any breakthroughs in stem cell science? Will there be another effort to get the research banned entirely?

### Human cloning

Will it be banned? If not, will it succeed?

## LAW

### Yates trial

What will be the outcome of the trial surrounding Andrea Yates, the Texas woman facing capital murder charges for the drowning deaths of her five children?

### Terrorism trial

Will federal prosecutors decide to seek the death penalty if Zacarias Moussaoui, accused of conspiracy in the September 11 terrorist attacks, is convicted?

### Legal rights

How will the continued war against terrorism affect the legal rights of Americans, immigrants, and non-U.S. citizens?

### Execution of mentally retarded

Will the U.S. Supreme Court decide that the execution of mentally retarded prisoners is cruel and unusual punishment?

## POLITICS

### Power on Capitol Hill

With Democrats now clinging to a one-seat advantage in the Senate and the Republicans holding a slim majority in the House, the November elections could tilt control of Congress. That could have a deep impact on President Bush's ability to pursue his agenda during the rest of his term.

### The economy

As 2002 gets under way, polls show that worries about the economy are foremost on the minds of voters, who fear the recession's pinch. Unless things improve soon, the economy could be the issue that determines the outcome of many November elections.

### Congressional agenda

Congress passed an education bill before going on recess, but other key issues remain unresolved, including economic stimulus, an energy policy, the fast-track trade bill and Social Security reform. With Congress strongly divided along partisan lines, it remains to be seen how much will get done before the election.

### Future of Democrats

Will Al Gore seek to run again for the office that slipped through his fingers in 2000 and challenge Bush to a rematch? Should we expect Democrats to begin jockeying for position in 2002 for a presidential run in 2004?

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Computer security

How will private companies and government battle the growing number of hacker attacks and e-mail viruses? What part will high-tech surveillance play in the war against terrorism?

### Peer-to-peer

Napster is expected to make a comeback sometime in 2002, but it will have to compete with the likes of MusicNet and Pressplay, both of which have the backing of major recording studios. P2P technology has its uses, but where will they lead?

### Microsoft antitrust

Despite talk of a settlement with the Justice Department, Microsoft isn't out of the woods yet. Private antitrust cases and a separate case from the states continue to dog the company. How will these decisions affect the consumer market? Will Microsoft continue to live on in its current form?

### Biometrics

Using the human body as an identifier has received renewed attention since September 11. The methods have applications in airports and government, but will they infringe on people's privacy too much? How will they be implemented, and will they be effective?

### Human genome/cloning

Details of the nearly completed sequence of the human gene structure were formally published in 2001, so where will that information lead? And how will it affect the

experiments being done with regards to cloning?

## SPACE

### New NASA chief

Sean O'Keefe, a veteran budget-buster from other federal departments, takes the helm of NASA as it grapples with billions of dollars in cost overruns. Will some NASA space exploration projects suffer as a result?

### International space station

The United States has the daunting task of figuring out how to scale down its commitments to the unfinished international space station without sacrificing the contributions of its international partners.

### Science from Mars

A new orbiter around the red planet should begin its scientific mission within weeks. What will Mars Odyssey find as it scans the surface for hot spots, signs of water and radiation measurements?

### Heavenly view

To survey the cosmos better, the Hubble Space Telescope should be outfitted with a more sophisticated camera in February. Moreover, later in the year, NASA expects to launch another major orbiting observatory, the Space Infrared Telescope Facility.

### Taikonauts in space

Observers think that China's secretive space agency, after conducting crucial test flights in 2001, could send its own astronauts into orbit this year, an achievement reached only by the United States and Russia.

## TRAVEL

### Sagging travel industry

Will the travel industry — including airlines, hotels, and tourist destinations — bounce back after one of its worst years ever? Can struggling airlines escape bankruptcy?

### Airport security

How quickly can the United States effectively beef up its airport security system and implement the mandates of the new aviation security bill? How much will it cost, and who will pay for it?

### Great deals

Travelers are being offered some of the best deals in years on airfares and hotel rates. How long will they last?

### Euro currency

Will the January 1 arrival of the euro throughout much of Europe simplify or complicate travel for border-crossing tourists?

### Travel on the Web

How will the growth of travel websites, and airlines' own online booking efforts, affect travel agencies? Will airlines continue to curtail travel agents' commissions?

## WORLD

### War on terror

President Bush declared war on terrorists everywhere after the September 11 attacks on the United States. Afghanistan, home of accused terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden, was first on the list. The U.S. launched a military campaign against Afghanistan on October 7, leading to the downfall of bin Laden's al Qaeda network and the ruling Taliban. But bin Laden and Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar remain at large. Will they be caught?

### India-Pakistan

Relations between South Asian nuclear rivals India and Pakistan plummeted to their lowest level in decades following the December 13 suicide attack on the Indian Parliament, which New Delhi has blamed on Kashmiri militant groups it says are supported by Pakistan. Will the two countries move back from the brink of war?

### Argentina

An economic crisis in Argentina touched off street fighting in December and led to the resignation of President Fernando de la Rúa. A series of would-be successors quickly followed, with populist Sen. Eduardo Duhalde sworn in as Argentina's fifth president within two weeks on January 2. Will Duhalde be able to turn around the wrecked economy in the nation of 36 million?

### Middle East

*continued on page 6*

## Library ...

*from page 3*

from the lab? Being carded because you are using a library computer at 8:00 in the evening is simply ridiculous.

### Some Random Library Observations:

- Who the heck is Kalmanovitz anyways? I guess I missed him on the library tour.

- Did you ever notice the giant puddles of urine beneath the men's urinals? From a library filled with future and current doctors, dentists, pharmacists and PhDs, I would expect a little more.

- Those automatic air fresheners that send out a puff of fragrance in the bathrooms every few minutes are very cool. I want one for my place.

- OK, OK, I get it. There are zero days left of Medline use, and there's only Pub Med now. The free post-its were enough. There's no need for a library employee to hand out informational fliers.

- Food isn't allowed in the library, but there are banquets held all the time on the 5th floor. Keep an eye open for leftovers.

- The glass windows in the library are over an inch thick. Bullet and suicide-proof, I suppose.

- I've smelled a very suspicious incense-like smell emanating from the first floor on some late nights. One word: medicinal.

- Ever notice the gold donation plaques on some of the desks? I wonder how much a desk costs.

- If you're ever in trouble, there are emergency intercom buttons all over the library.

- The circulation desk set up a tape and cardboard barrier to prevent people from stamping their own parking passes.

- What percentage of *Synapse* readers are bored library patrons?

- Any computer stuff that might be considered cool (flat plasma screens or optical mice) are completely bolted down.

- Would it be possible to trap and crush someone between those moving bookshelves?

Alex is a first year medical student who spends a significant fraction of his life trying to study on the second floor of Kalmanovitz library. If you have any library related anecdotes or gripes to share, email him at [ale8@itsa.ucsf.edu](mailto:ale8@itsa.ucsf.edu). Or, just say hi to the large Asian guy who appears to be asleep on his readings at a large corner desk.

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## film

# A Window into A Beautiful Mind

by Julian Asher

We meet John Nash (Russell Crowe) as he begins his graduate studies in mathematics at Princeton in the 1940s, a poor boy from West Virginia who has received one of the university's most coveted fellowships. The socially awkward Nash is at first the object of ridicule by his preppy classmates, but eventually he finds friends in fellow mathematicians Bender (*Rent's* Anthony Rapp) and Sol (Adam Goldberg), as well as his British roommate, Charles (Paul Bettany). Even his Princeton rival, Hansen (Josh Lucas), eventually comes to respect him, even while raising Nash's hackles. Nash is a bundle of contradictions – at once arrogant and insecure, straightforward and painfully abstract. While his fellow students attend classes and publish papers, Nash spends his time scrawling equations on windows, in search of the one thing that in his mind will make him really matter – “a truly original idea.” Nash's quest for this idea and his refusal to settle for anything less nearly leads to his failure to graduate – until chance and genius finally meld in his initial work on game theory, revolutionizing modern economics.

Together with Sol and Bender, Nash leaves Princeton for a coveted research and teaching post at MIT. It is there that he meets Alicia Larde (Jennifer Connelly), and for the first time finds someone who responds to his awkward overtures with overtures of her own. But it is also here that Nash's world begins to slowly spiral in on itself, as his involvement in Cold War government research becomes dominated by the shadowy government agent William Parcher (Ed Harris). Parcher recruits Nash, “the best natural code breaker I've ever seen,” to aid him in his quest to head off an impending nuclear disaster. Nash's world begins to unravel, as his work for Parcher draws him ever deeper into the shadows of government conspiracy, leading him first to a mysterious covert government safe-house in Cambridge and then to an encounter with a group of Russian agents who attempt to eliminate him. He becomes increasingly furtive, obsessed, and paranoid, but knows that he must continue his work – the fate of the free world is at stake.

Or is it?

While at Harvard visiting Charles and his niece, Marcie, Nash is accosted by a group of mysterious men in dark suits. He awakes to find himself in a psychiatric hospital. The diagnosis is paranoid schizophrenia. Everything Nash accepts as real – from his work for Parcher to his friendship with Charles – comes into question. He comes

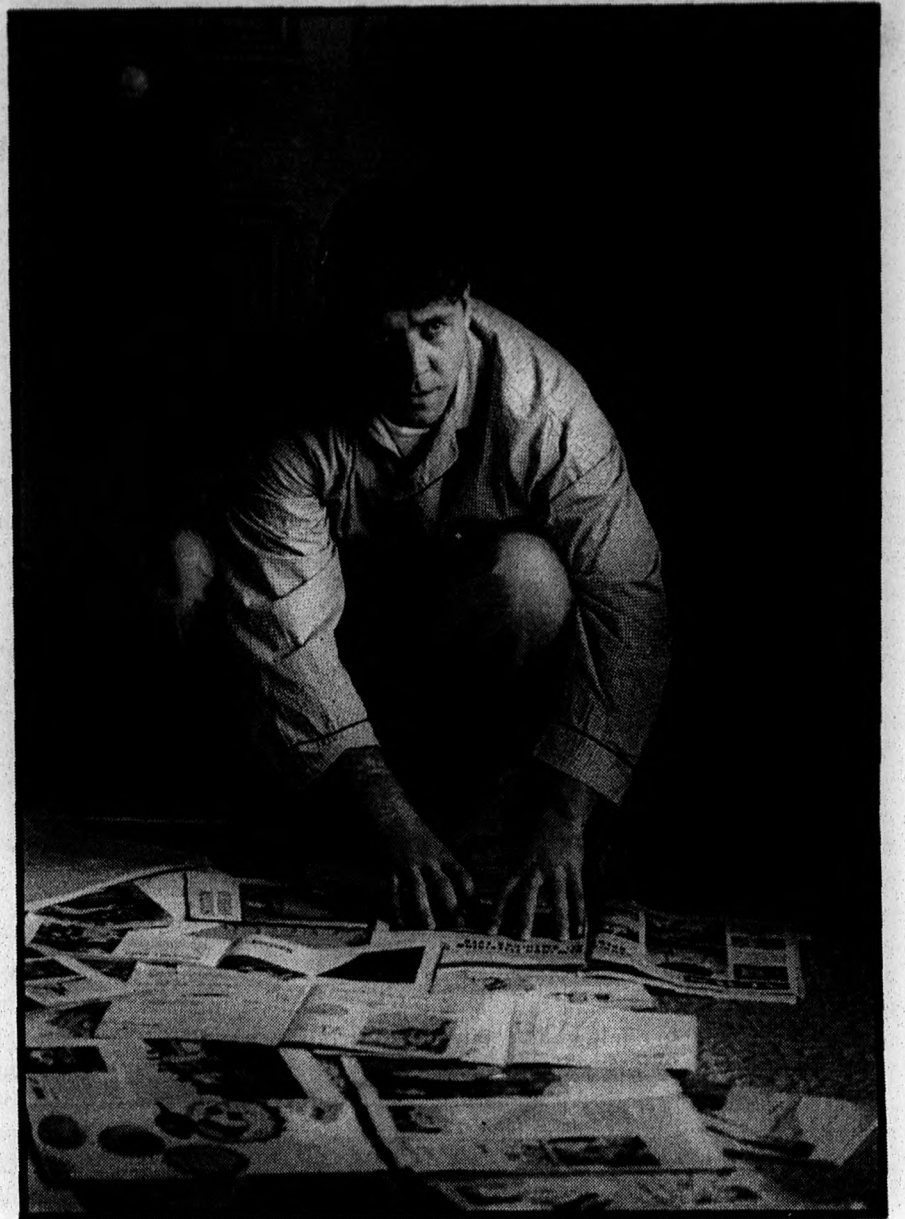
under the care of Dr. Rosen (Christopher Plummer), who together with Alicia works to begin the long process of helping Nash find his way back to reality.

By shooting all of the sequences “straight” – as opposed to using a special lens or perspective to differentiate Nash's hallucinations and delusions from reality – director Ron Howard challenges the audience's own perceptions of reality, and in doing so enables us to grasp some small part of what it must be like to live with schizophrenia. As Dr. Rosen begins to unravel Nash's delusions, we find ourselves wondering along with Nash – what's real? Did Nash have a British roommate named Charles at Princeton, or did he live alone? Is the place where Nash drops his top-secret communiqués a secret government safe-house, or a broken-down abandoned mansion? Where does Nash's real work for the government end, and the conspiracy in his mind begin? Is Dr. Rosen an enemy or an ally? Who is William Parcher?

Perhaps the most fascinating question raised by the film is posed through the way in which Nash's genius is portrayed as inextricably intertwined with his illness. Eliminating one cannot come without the cost of the other, a price Nash is unwilling to pay. Is genius, which so often enables its possessors to see things that the rest of us can't, merely one step left of madness? Does acquiring the sort of insight into the inner workings of the universe possessed by people like John Nash necessitate a break with reality?

One of the most striking choices made by the filmmakers was to avoid a pat Hollywood ending, in which Nash would have completely overcome his illness and ended triumphant upon the Nobel stage in Stockholm. The path they have chosen is much more complex and thus much more real.

I will admit to entering the theater with some misgivings about the casting of Russell Crowe as John Nash. Could the same man who brought such intense physicality to the Roman general-cum-slave Maximus somehow inhabit the skin of an introverted, socially awkward Ivy League mathematician? The answer is indubitably yes. Crowe's performance as Nash makes the viewer forget that he ever played any other role, so complete is his ability to become John Nash. He even manages, aided by some of the best, most subtle makeup work I've ever seen, to believably age 47 years over the course of the story, altering everything from his stride to the way he holds his head.



Russell Crowe shines in the role of John Nash.

Christopher Plummer brings both gravitas and compassion to the critical role of Dr. Rosen, and Jennifer Connelly is velvet over an inner core of steel as Alicia. The author of the book of the same title on which the film is based, Sylvia Nasar, was inspired by Alicia's strength; she describes Alicia as the true heroine of the story. Connelly's Alicia is both whimsical and daring; as a graduate student she is not afraid of the dread Professor Nash, and as his wife she confronts his illness with equal courage.

One relationship that seems to have been given short shrift is the rivalry between Nash and Hansen. Though described as “intense” and supposedly one of the factors that drove the competitive and insecure Nash to push himself towards his eventual discovery of game theory, there are too few scenes of them together to foster a sense of real rivalry. Their reunion after Nash's

schizophrenic break, when Hansen is chair of the mathematics department at Princeton and Nash is living in Princeton and trying to resume his academic career, would have been more meaningful if there had been more time spent on the initial phase of their relationship.

One of the most difficult things about studying psychiatry is understanding what it is like to live with psychiatric illness, how these diseases of the mind can affect a person's life and how he or she relates to the world. There are some psychiatric illnesses which render the patient's everyday experience so vastly different from our own that the implications are difficult to even begin to grasp, much less truly understand. Schizophrenia is one of those illnesses. This film provides a brief, small window into the mind of a schizophrenic, a mind possessed of a terrible beauty all its own.

## Health and Science ...

from page 1

with estrogen did not adversely affect performance. The treated women also outperformed the placebo group in visuo-spatial tasks. Both verbal memory and visuo-spatial tasks are affected in AD.

• One of the main centers for memory formation in the brain is the hippocampus. Decreases in the size of the hippocampus may be associated with decreased ability to learn new tasks and/or information with advancing age. Researchers used MRI to compare hippocampal volume among three groups: postmenopausal women not taking estrogen, postmenopausal women taking estrogen, and men. The study was an extension of a long-term project looking at the prevalence of AD amongst Mexican Americans. The researchers found that women who used estrogen had larger hippocampal volumes than both their HRT abstaining counterparts and the men. The difference was on the order of 10 percent, and was not affected when accounting for level of education or socio-economic status. The authors state that this may be “the first

report of an anatomical basis” for preservation of memory functions with estrogen usage.

• It is known that a woman's risk for stroke greatly increases following menopause, suggesting a protective role for estrogen against stroke. This protection can be considered analogous to the protection against coronary artery disease offered by estrogen in women taking HRT, as both stroke and coronary artery disease are mediated by vascular events. However, research suggests that estrogen may go further in stroke to actually modulate the amount of damage suffered by affected cells. A study using a rat model of menopause (oophorectomy) looked at the extent of damage following surgically-induced stroke of the middle cerebral artery in the rodent's brain. While estrogen did not prevent acute cell death in the region of the stroke, it was effective in protecting against delayed cell death in the cerebral cortex. This protective effect was lost in rats lacking the estrogen-a receptor, suggesting that the estrogen-a receptor is mediating these effects of estrogen, perhaps through intracellular signaling that can block mechanisms of cell death invoked by the stroke.

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## opinion

# Unfortunate Response to a Noble Gesture

by Mukesh Sahu

As the new year rolled around a few weeks ago, few Americans could argue that there was but one memory dominant on their minds. More than weddings, birthdays, or a new baby, a departing 2001 brought back painful recollections of fire, smoke, and twisted metal. And so we gladly bid it farewell on December 31st, hoping that by being able to write 2002 on checks and forms, the anger, confusion, and helplessness we felt would diminish. It would all be a part of "that year," not this one, and while we'd never forget September 11, we would say goodbye and embrace this new year with dreams of prosperity. Many have succeeded at least partially in this task, and are glad that the media no longer drill us with image after repeated image of towers falling, planes exploding, and people running. But others have not yet moved on. For those that lost a father, a sister, or a husband, January 1 was one more day without them. No closure, no sense of renewed promise.

In an effort to alleviate a (admittedly small) part of this, the government has

tember 21st as a way of giving these families some relief from lost wages and other financial problems they may have resulted from these events. While having the benefit of saving time and resources that would otherwise be spent on wrongful death lawsuits against airlines, the tower owners, and many others, this is an act of real generosity on the part of the government. It is under no obligation to do this, and has never done it before. Yet, people are still angry at how the money is being distributed, even ready to sue over it.

The way it works is simple. Every family of a victim gets an automatic \$250,000, with \$50,000 more per dependent, and an immediate \$50,000 up front to help with any immediate expenses. After this, additional awards are based on criteria such as age of the victim, marital status, and most importantly, presumed lost wages as a result of premature death. The special master of the fund, attorney Kenneth Fienberg, has set the minimum payment at around \$500,000 and the maximum at around \$3 million. While it may seem almost barbaric to assign

amounts, we are seeing all of them at once, making this disparity much more obvious.

So why the anger? People want more money. Those at the bottom of the scale feel like the fund should be divided evenly, while those at the top feel like they are being denied a much bigger payoff, given the \$3 million ceiling. Neither group seems to understand that in any other situation, they wouldn't even be having this discussion because this money would be non-existent. Sure, in a way they are right — they could sue for unlimited damages in a wrongful death suit, but they'd still have to argue that case. They would have to find a lawyer and wade through the trial and appeals for years. Assuming they won, (a big assumption in cases like these where negligence is difficult to establish; Oklahoma City families lost every case), they would have to fork over a third of the jackpot to their attorney. Here, they are being offered money tax-free with no questions asked, no evidence of guilt required. Even people such as parents or siblings (non-dependents) that would otherwise be entitled to nothing based on the law, are receiving money by Fienberg's math. Yet both these groups, and all the others in between, are up in arms, and will

probably take to the courtroom in the very near future.

I cannot hope to understand anything about how all of these families are dealing with this tragedy. I was very fortunate in that no one I knew perished in the attack. But, as much as I feel for these people and wish September 11 was just another day last year, the objective side of me still has a hard time watching people look at a gift and call it unfair, nonsense, or a bribe. The only unfairness I see is that victims of Oklahoma City or embassies across the world were not offered the same deal. Their losses were no less significant, yet the idea of a special fund for them never emerged, even as an afterthought. All they could do was grieve and move on. Here is a system designed to help the current victims, backed by an enormous amount of money, and put in place in only six weeks. The reply: disapproval. Someone referred to Fienberg's differential distribution scheme as an unfortunate precedent. I, too, see something unfortunate here, but it has nothing to do with the government and everything to do with human behavior.

Mukesh Sahu is a second-year medical student and Editor-in-Chief of *Synapse*.

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The objective side of me still has a hard time watching people look at a gift and call it unfair, nonsense, or a bribe.

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decided to offer some financial help to the families of victims. Termed the Victim's Compensation Fund, this appropriation of five to seven billion dollars of taxpayer money was approved by Congress on Sep-

different values to human lives, this is how it has always been done in a courtroom. The only difference here is that instead of hearing about isolated cases and their dollar

2002 ...

from page 4

Violence escalated in the Middle East in December after Gen. Anthony Zinni, the United States' Middle East peace envoy, arrived for his first mission in the region. After Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat renewed his call for a truce and arrested scores of militant group members, violence dropped off. Will calm return to the region or will tensions continue to mount?

The Euro

Much of Europe greeted the new year with a new currency. The introduction of the euro on New Year's Day in 12 European countries marked the largest currency swap in history. Will the euro rival the dollar?

There are certainly many unpredictable events heading our way. Americans can only hope for a less turbulent ride in the next 365 days. *Synapse* is here to bring you facts as they occur. For now, we wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

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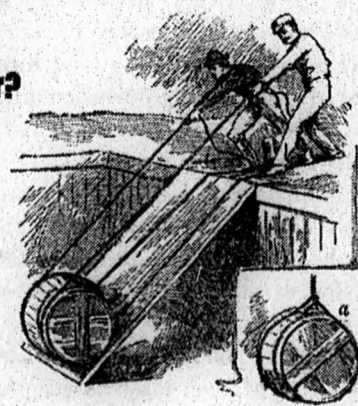
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## theatre

# Copenhagen: The Play's the Thing

by Brian Margolin

In many stage or screen presentations, the performance of one actor shines above all others. Yet in *Copenhagen*, now playing at the Curran Theatre, it is Michael Frayn's Tony-winning script that is the star of the show. The play of three characters revolves around the now-famous 1941 meeting between the two Nobel laureate physicists, Niels Bohr (Len Cariou) and Werner Heisenberg (Hank Stratton), in Nazi-occupied *Copenhagen*. Heisenberg, a German physicist, has come to Denmark to meet with Bohr, his old friend and mentor. Yet it is difficult for their relationship to take on any vestiges of its former collegial and friendly nature. It is 1941 and Bohr, who is half Jewish, is living under the Nazi occupation.

Rapid fire dialogue between Heisenberg, Bohr, and Bohr's wife, Margrethe (Mariette Hartley), quickly tells us that Heisenberg's visit concerns the feasibility of the production of an atomic weapon. Nevertheless, the actual reasons for Heisenberg's visit are as

nebulous as the nature of the atom. Did Heisenberg, who ran the German atomic weapons program, come to garner information about building an atomic weapon, or of a possible Allied atomic weapon program from Bohr, or rather, did he come to convince Bohr of his innocence in the matter? Although we may never really know the actual motivation for Heisenberg's visit, Frayn's script takes us through the many myriad possibilities.

Although the central theme of *Copenhagen* is the meeting and the discussion of the physics behind atomic weaponry, the play also explores many other issues, including the very nature of scientific pursuit and its intimate relationship with human nature. Although the play deals with complex ideas, it does so in a very approachable manner. The heady subject matter does not necessarily make for a light evening, but it does provide to be an intellectually rewarding, and entertaining one.

## Visual Development Studies at Smith-Kettlewell

Scientists and eye physicians at The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute are studying visual development in adults and children. People with amblyopia, sometimes referred to as "lazy eye," and people with strabismus (misaligned eyes) may be eligible to participate in the study. The research is being conducted by Dr. William Good and Dr. Anthony M. Norcia. Participation is totally voluntary and involves measuring visual function by placing sensors on the back of the head (Visual Evoked Potential). This test is not invasive and measures the brain's response to visual targets. In another study, you may be asked to tell us when you see certain visual targets. We pay research subjects \$20.00 per hour for their participation in these studies to help compensate for travel-related expenses.

If you wish to participate you may contact Lisa Young at 345-2075. Smith-Kettlewell is located at 2318 Fillmore St., San Francisco 94115.

## UCSF news

## Martin Luther King Week Events

The campus will celebrate its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Week with a series of events, Jan. 22-25. The theme for this year's celebration is "Celebrate Character, Teach Tolerance."

Here is the schedule of events organized by the campus MLK Commemoration Week Committee:

On Tuesday, January 22, Pulitzer Prize winner Leon F. Litwack will deliver the keynote address, "Trouble in Mind: African Americans and Race Relations in the Twentieth Century," noon to 1 p.m., in N217.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, January 22, noon to 2 p.m., in Cole Hall. The winners of the campus diversity awards will be honored.

On Thursday, January 24, Blues Orbit, a concert featuring world-class saxophonist Bobbie Webb and his band, will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in Cole Hall.

Thursday evening, Cole Hall Cinema will feature the film "Celluloid Closet" and a forum, 5:45 and 7:45 p.m., in Cole Hall. This documentary explores sexual myths and how our attitudes about homosexuality and sex roles have evolved through the century. A short discussion will be held prior to the first showing. Admission: \$2.20 to \$4.

Finally, on Friday, January 25, Films on Parnassus will present at noon to 1 p.m. in HSW 303, "All God's Children," a documentary about the Black Church's embracing African American lesbians and gay men as dedicated members of its spiritual family. "Coming Out, Coming Home" features excerpts from a film about Asian and Pacific Islander families with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender children, produced by UCSF's Trinity Ordona.

### Childcare Survey at UCSF

In April 2001, Chancellor Bishop appointed a committee to oversee implementation of campus childcare policy, particularly as it relates to recruitment, retention, and productivity of UCSF faculty, staff, and students.

In order to plan for future UCSF childcare facilities, the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Childcare is launching a campus-wide survey to collect current data on the childcare needs of all UCSF faculty, staff, students, residents, and graduate and research fellows.

This is your opportunity to share your childcare needs and experiences. The results of the survey will be shared with Chancellor Bishop. The data will be used to develop short- and long-term plans to accommodate appropriate numbers of infants and children in UCSF childcare facilities and to address the unique needs of the UCSF campus community.

Surveys will be available via campus mail and at designated website <http://128.218.117.224/wsveys/s/1348-cdgw/>

Please take the time to complete a survey. Your thoughtful responses will make a difference.

### Instructional Grant Funds Now Available

Funds are available to support instructional improvement projects. Grants are awarded for amounts up to \$10,000. Proposals are due Monday, February 25.

The Instructional Grants Program is administered by the Kalmanovitz Library, with assistance from the Academic Senate. Grant proposals must be consistent with any of the following goals:

- Improvement of existing instructional programs, including courses, curricula, instructional processes, and academic advising.

- Development of new programs, including new courses, curricula, instructional software, and instructional processes. These developmental activities may be program related (e.g., the expansion of a new curriculum or instructional process) or resource related (e.g., the establishment of teaching resource centers, teaching workshops, or faculty development programs).

- Introduction of experimental approaches to instructional content, processes, or resources.

- Teaching evaluation activities construed broadly, including the effectiveness of courses, curricula, individual support activities, and academic advising, and the dissemination of teaching evaluation results.

UCSF faculty, students, and staff are eligible to submit proposals. Students and other non-faculty applicants need to include a letter from a faculty sponsor with their application. Details are included in the application instructions.

Complete guidelines, instructions, and application forms are available online at the CIT web site: <http://cit.ucsf.edu/grants/guidelines.php>

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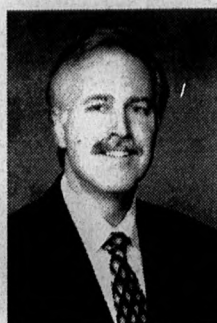
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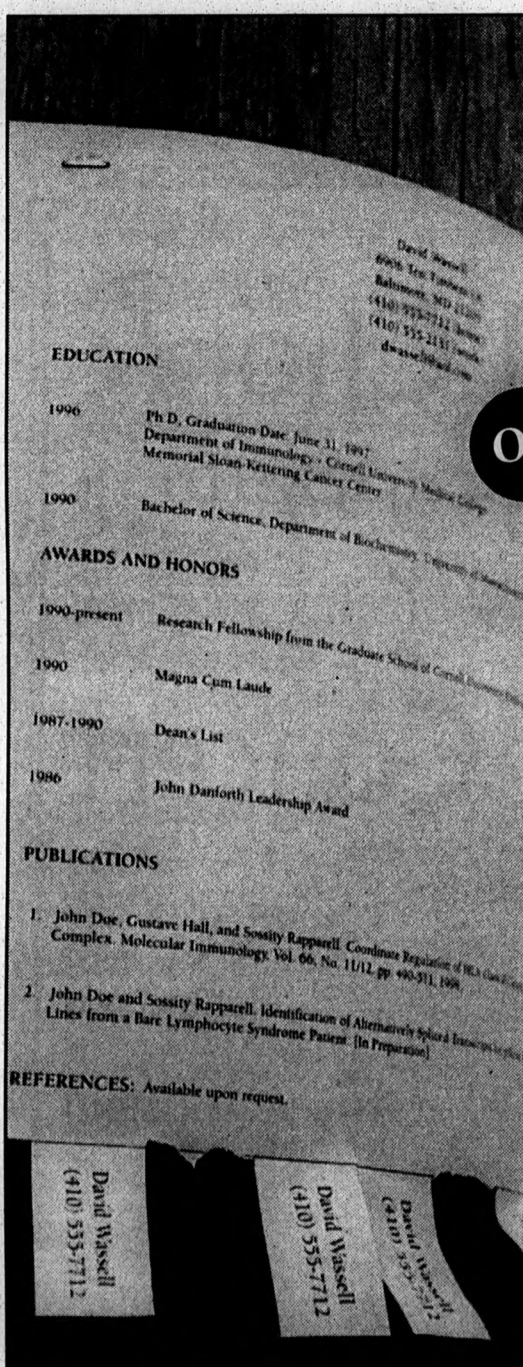
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