By Yigal Arens

On July 19, Ed Hovy got married to Louke Van Wensveen in the small Dutch town of Vaals, just across the border from the German city of Aachen. I know, because I was there—both as a guest and acting officially as a witness. Louke is a professor of theology at Loyola Marymount University just up the hill in the direction of the airport, and Ed is—well, you know Ed.

As many of you are aware, Ed and Louke have already been living together for quite some time in Westchester, together with Louke’s two children from a previous marriage. In the wed-

(Continued on page 10)
Craig Knoblock promoted to Senior Project Leader May 2001.

Stacy Marsella promoted to Project Leader June 2001.

Lauri Grier promoted to Administrative Services Coordinator II July 2001.

Theodore “Theo” Jacob Philpot was born to Janna and Andrew Philpot on Thursday, September 27, 2:58 am. He weighted 9 lbs and was 21 inches tall. Mom and baby are doing great!!

Ed Hovy became President of the International Association of Machine Translation (IAMT) in September, for 2001-03.

Clara Owen Ross was born to Kristina Lerman and Richard Ross on Friday, October 23, 6:54 am. She weighed 6 lbs 8 oz and was 19 ¾ inches tall. All are healthy and well (but the grownups are somewhat tired!) ☺
**DECEMBER 2001**

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<td>ISC HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>ISC HOLIDAY</td>
<td>Wei-Min Shen’s Birthday!</td>
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**JANUARY 2002**

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<td>IS HOLIDAY</td>
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**Schedule of Events**

- **December 13, 2001** – Fanny Mak and Paul Rosenbloom’s birthday!
- **December 24—25, 2001** – ISI HOLIDAY
- **December 25, 2001** – Wei-Min Shen’s birthday!
- **December 31, 2001** – ISI HOLIDAY

- **January 1, 2002** – ISI HOLIDAY
- **January 7, 2002** – AAMAS 2002: Deadline for workshop and tutorial proposals
- **January 14, 2002** – Kevin Knight’s birthday!
- **January 14–17, 2002** – International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces 2001: Santa Fe, New Mexico
  IUI 2001 is the annual meeting of the intelligent interfaces community and serves as the principal international forum for reporting outstanding research and development on intelligent user interfaces.
- **January 15, 2002** – AAMAS 2002: Paper acceptance notifications sent to authors
- **January 15, 2002** – COLING 2002: Deadline for Workshop Proposals
- **January 21, 2002** – AIPS 2002: authors notified
- **January 22, 2002** – AAI 2002: Electronic submission of title page, abstract and paper
- **January 22, 2002** – AAI 2002: Submission of two paper copies to AAAI office
- **January 24, 2002** – Deepak Ravichandran’s birthday!
- **January 25, 2002** – ACL 2002: Paper submission deadline
Hi! My name is Karyn and I am currently on my second year in the Master program at USC. I am working with Erin Shaw and Kate Labore. I obtained my bachelors degree in Computer Science at De La Salle University in Manila. After finishing my undergraduate degree, I worked in the industry for a couple of years. My job gave me the chance to meet people from different parts of the world and to live in different cities such as Chicago and Melbourne, Australia. My background has given me the chance to learn different languages and dialects, and hopefully I will get the chance to learn new ones. I love food, coffee, nature, chocolate, movies and Disneyland among other things.

SWM seeks graduate degree in creative, stimulating environment. Degree environment should be fun and supportive and share extracurricular interests with him, such as: rock climbing, aikido, hiking and skiing. Degree must be terminal and in the Computer Science discipline, with a research focus in natural language processing. His interests don't lie just in natural language processing but rather extend to equally nerdy things like syntactic theory (especially Optimality Theory) and theoretical computer science (stuff like approximation algorithms and complexity theory). Respondents should realize that he has spend the past three years of his life getting his undergraduate degree at Carnegie Mellon University and should not mind the fact that he is temporarily quite pale. His current work is doing summarization-based research with Daniel Marcu in the Intelligent Systems Division at ISI. Respondents should reply by emailing him at hdaume@isi.edu, visiting his web page (www.isi.edu/~hdaume) or, for the truly adventurous, visiting him at his office on the 9th floor, room

(Continued on page 5)
I am a visiting scholar of the Natural Language Processing group of the Intelligent Systems Division for about one year and also an associate professor at the Department of Computer Engineering in Hoseo University, Korea.

I received my B.A. degree in Electronic Engineering from Inha University and M.S. and Ph.D. in Information Engineering from Inha University. My research has been in the area of natural language processing, especially Korean language processing.

These days, I’m interested in multilingual text summarization and QA system, and want to study on these subjects with Ed Hovy and his project team.

I think it’s a good chance to improve my research and experience a new environment.

I live in Torrance with my family.

Hi! My name is Feng Pan. I’m currently pursuing my Ph.D. degree in Computer Science at USC, and I’m a research assistant working with Dr. Knoblock. I came from Beijing, China. I really love Beijing. I received my B.S. degree in Computer Science with great distinction from Clarkson University, NY. Clarkson University is located in Potsdam, which is a very quiet and small town in the very northern part of New York State. In fact, I transferred from Beijing Normal University to Clarkson University when I was a junior. So you can see that I have been traveling a lot – from Beijing to Potsdam, then come to LA. My favorite sport is ping-pong. If you would like to know more about me or about Chinese culture/language, please feel free to drop by my office (943) or email me (fp@usc.edu).

Hi, my name is Paul Scerri (pronounced like the drink). I’ve come to ISI from sunny Australia, via the arctic greyness of Linkoping, Sweden (don’t tell anyone from Sweden I said that!). I finished my undergraduate studies at RMIT in Melbourne, Australia in 1997. For my undergraduate thesis I built the first of four “Headless Chickens” RoboCup simulation teams that competed in world championships. Working with RoboCup ignited my interest in research and, after some fortunate breaks, I was soon off to Sweden for graduate studies.

After four fantastic years studying in Sweden and travelling around Europe (to maintain a healthy balance!) I have almost finished my PhD studies and have come to ISI as a postdoc. In Sweden, I continued working with intelligent agents, initially focusing on end-user specification then on adjustable autonomy. We built an end user system called EASE which allowed relative endusers to specify agents for both RoboCup and an aircombat domain. The adjustable autonomy aspect allowed the user to "help" the agents at runtime. Hopefully, I will be flying back to Sweden before the end of the year to defend my thesis on how to build agents for systems with adjustable autonomy.

In the first half of 2000 I spent six great
Four members of the division were selected to be featured in this section. Try to determine who these individuals are based on the answers they provided. The identities of these individuals are located on page 18.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>ISDer #1</th>
<th>ISDer #2</th>
<th>ISDer #3</th>
<th>ISDer #4</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. What's on your mouse pad?</td>
<td>Sun mouse</td>
<td>netbank.com (online banks are great! I also recommend pbc banker.com)</td>
<td>some flying man :)</td>
<td>A corporate logo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Least favorite smells:</td>
<td>seafood</td>
<td>Vomit. I always seemed to get stuck cleaning up after my younger siblings when I was growing up</td>
<td>My husband’s socks after a good hike...</td>
<td>burning rubber...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Least favorite taste:</td>
<td>seafood</td>
<td>liver</td>
<td>cucumber</td>
<td>overdone spaghetti...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Favorite sound:</td>
<td>music</td>
<td>Soundtrack to (new) Sbrina movie</td>
<td>jackpot sound (in Las Vegas)</td>
<td>sound of rain hitting the window...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Favorite color:</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td>red, but I’ve been told it should be blue</td>
<td>black, maybe,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. How many rings before you answer the phone?</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>few as possible</td>
<td>In the office… one… at home… I never answer</td>
<td>depends...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Favorite foods:</td>
<td>variatio delectat, but certainly not without Kassler</td>
<td>BBQ chips, ice cream, potatoes and gravy, french fries, cauliflower</td>
<td>mexican</td>
<td>middle-eastern food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Chocolate or vanilla?</td>
<td>all of the above</td>
<td>vanilla</td>
<td>chocolate</td>
<td>chocolate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Do you like to drive fast?</td>
<td>Yes, in moderation</td>
<td>not per se, but I hate spending extra time getting from here to there.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, especially in the ISI parking structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. What type was your first car?</td>
<td>yellow Citroen</td>
<td>Honda Civic</td>
<td>Oltcit… you probably never heard of this :)</td>
<td>77 Oldsmobile station-wagon, paid $100</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. If you could meet one person dead or alive, who would it be?</td>
<td>many, including Leonardo da Vinci</td>
<td>Jesus Christ</td>
<td>Wesley Snipes</td>
<td>Buddha</td>
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<td>13. What is your zodiac sign?</td>
<td>Sagittarius</td>
<td>Virgo</td>
<td>Pisces</td>
<td>Cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Do you eat the stems of broccoli?</td>
<td>rather not</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>I very, very rarely eat broccoli</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Favorite movies:</td>
<td>documentaries</td>
<td>Gone with the Wind, Life is Beautiful, It’s a Wonderful Life</td>
<td>Mediterranean, Life Is Beautiful, Usual Suspects, Nikita</td>
<td>Forest Gump, Under-ground, The Last Tempta-tion of Christ, Trainspotting, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Favorite type of music:</td>
<td>classical</td>
<td>classical, foreign, or electric</td>
<td>reggae</td>
<td>Hard to specify… Beethoven, Dead Kennedies, and many others in-between...</td>
</tr>
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The target is mounted on a moving train.

If you happen to pass by office 949 (a nameplate near its door announcing it to be Multi-Agent Lab) during your daily course of activities, you may have noticed a recent addition to its contents. However, at first glance, this new addition may not appear to be very research oriented.

Because it's a small toy train!

To be more precise, it's a miniature Southern Pacific freight set (for those interested, it's O-27 scale; although I'm not sure what that means). It comes with an RS-3 diesel locomotive, diesel horn and operating headlight.

Now you may wonder how this is related to our research at all.

You see, we are solving a resource allocation problem. It involves a grid of radar sensors, and targets moving around in that grid. The sensors collaborate with each other to track those moving targets.

While replicating this setup in our lab, it was not too difficult to install radar sensors; but how to get our sample target to move?

So Milind came up with this idea of using a small toy train, and mounting our target on its top in order to make it mobile. Jay went ahead and got the train. It was great fun setting it up in our lab and making sure that it worked. We took extra efforts to ensure that its diesel horn worked as well as described, and everybody from the team got a turn at it. Jay even displayed this train during one of the demos that he gave.

If you observe its engine, you'll see a shiny copper thing mounted on its top. That's the target we use for tracking.

Behnam Salemi was most kind to handle the technical issues of its mounting.

So now, when you see this train running in my office between some odd looking boxes (the sensors) you need wonder no longer... If you feel like checking it out, you are most welcome to drop by 949 and I'll be happy to assist you!

I knew that research is interesting, but had no idea it could be so much fun!

Sometimes I wonder... if a train today, what next?

I'm sure the future would be much more fantastic than my imagination.

Because it's a small toy train!

To be more precise, it's a miniature Southern Pacific freight set (for those interested, it's O-27 scale; although I'm not sure what that means). It comes with an RS-3 diesel locomotive, diesel horn and operating headlight.

By Shriniwas Kulkarni

First glance, this new addition may not appear to be very research oriented.
A.I. Movie Review

By Yigal Arens

“Creepy and annoying”, “preposterous science”, “over the top, long monologs”—choice quotes from the ISI reviewers of the Spielberg/Kubrick film A.I. Artificial Intelligence.

During the months preceding the release of the film, many in the AI world, including us at ISI, were trying to find out its plot of and to figure out if the film would be good or bad for the real AI. In response to persistent hounding, the film’s distributors invited Yolanda Gil, Stacy Marsella, Jeff Rickel and myself to an early screening at the Director’s Guild theater in West Hollywood. We didn’t like the movie. We thought it was too long, that the science underlying it was not well thought out and that it often simply made no sense. I was very surprised that many professional reviewers actually thought the film was good!

At any rate, those of us who pre-viewed the movie provided a public service to the rest of you here by criticizing it to everyone who would listen. That way, when you went to see it—if you work in AI you have to see a movie named AI, no?—your expectations were sufficiently lowered so that you probably ended up enjoying it…

We at ISI did benefit from the brief increase in the visibility of our field. Several of us got to be interviewed on TV, radio and in newspapers where we had a chance to bring our work to the attention of an audience that might not normally have been aware of it.

If you’re interested in one slightly more serious thought about the movie, here goes. One of the main questions raised by the film is, what, if anything, distinguishes a human from a robot in principle. The film appears to claim that it is the ability to experience emotions, but it never bothers to clarify what constitutes an emotion. Worse, it is inconsistent. While none of the robots other than David (the child robot) claim to love anyone, many clearly care about David. Is that not an emotional response? Frankly, despite all the talk about how David is the first robot to have emotions, other than annoyingly demanding that his mother love him, he doesn’t behave much differently than many of the other robots. What mainly distinguishes David from the others is that he has a decent and human-like body, not anything about his behavior. The quality of “having emotions” seems to be something the filmmakers bestowed on the David character only by virtue of their say-so.

So is a robot essentially different than a human other than in its physical makeup? A.I. Artificial Intelligence certainly contributes nothing to answering the question.
The 2001 ISD Retreat took place on October 4 and 5 in the Radisson Hotel in Santa Barbara. A great place for a retreat!—we had two rooms to ourselves, upstairs for meetings and downstairs for food. And across the road: on one side the beach and on the other open areas for soccer and other sports. What could be better?

The program was pretty packed...there's so much going on in the Division that even with only 20-minute talks, fewer than half the division members got a chance to describe their research. But we had a chance to sample the smorgasbord of topics, from knowledge acquisition and planning to text summarization and educational software agents.

It was very interesting to see the wide variety of methodologies and approaches adopted in the Division, including large-scale learning (of Machine Translation knowledge), hardware (digital hormones for robots), software design (for planning systems, etc.), and computational theory (of teamwork).

The four panels provided an opportunity for contrasting points of view. "Ontologies Strike Back" covered all the major issues in ontologies, from knowledge acquisition to conceptual problems to semi-automated learning. In "Futures for CS and AI" the panelists outlined their visions for what's coming, why it's coming, and what makes it hard. "AI on Super, Molecular, and Quantum Computers" gave an interesting glimpse into the experiments being run on very large amounts of data on USC's cluster of almost 200 connected computers, suggesting even that some problems may be solved by search over a billion words. And the panel "Preparing for Life after Graduate School" provided very useful information to students, including hints on writing a cv, doing the interview, and handling the employer's questions.

Two poster sessions gave everyone a chance to describe their own work and to learn about the work of half of the others. Again the range of projects and topics showed how much expertise we have on the 9th floor. But if we needed more proof of the variety, the talent show after dinner provided it: Hans playing blues, Lewis singing arias, Daniel and Ed and Lewis doing a piano trio, Richard Ross and Kristina showing Richard's photographs, Wei-Min's son playing part of a piano sonata... and the unforgettable ISD Movie Posters! (see page 18)

In the Social Program game show, hosts Jay Modi and Greg Barish gave people a chance to strut their AI knowledge and their drawing skills. And the eventual AI Survivor, David Pynadath, deserves a special place in the pantheon of the Gods (or at least a laurel wreath around his photo on the notice board).

The program is available online: http://www.isi.edu/~fanny/isd-retreat/program/.

(Continued on page 19)
isd retreat photos

Project Leaders
Daniel Marcu, Ed Hovy, Yolanda Gil, Kevin Knight, Paul Rosenbloom, Lewis Johnson, Craig Knoblock, Yigal Arens, Wei-Min Shen, Hans Chalupsky

Graduate Students
Parag Samdadiya, Yaser Alonaizan, Jay Modi, Michael Fleischman, Alex Fraser, Snehal Thakkar, Andrew Koehn, Radu Soricut, Hal Daume, Greg Barish, Sheila Tejada, Stefan Munteanu, Jafar Adibi, Kenji Yamada, Varun Ratnakar
Expect
Yolanda Gil, Varun Ratnakar, Jim Blythe, Jihie Kim

Ariadne
Parag Samdadiya, Jean Oh, Sheila Tejada, Jose-Luis Ambite, Greg Barish, Maria Muslea, Snehal Thakkar, Craig Knoblock

CARTE
Andrew Marshall, Jeff Rickel, Geraldine Clarebout, Kate LaBore, Lewis Johnson, Erin Shaw, Stacy Marsella

KR / Loom
Hans Chalupsky and Tom Russ
Admin Staff
Kary Lau, Liz Hall, Lauri Grier, Fanny Mak

Natural Language
Kevin Knight, Jae Hoon Kim, Ed Hovy, Radu Soricut, Hal Duame, Andrew Kohen, Michael Fleischman, Alex Fraser, Chin-Yew Lin, Yaser Alonaizan, Deepak Ravichandran, Kenji Yamada, Stephan Munteanu, William Wong, Uli Gerhardmann, Kwang Rok Han, Daniel Marcu, Irene Geary, Ulf Hermjakob

Agents
David Pynadath, Wei-Min Shen, Paul Scerri, Jay Modi, Sattiraju Prabhakar

Additional photos available:
http://www.isi.edu/~d3admin/isd-retreat/
Ed and Louke!
Hovy Wedding, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

ding photo you can see Ed and Louke just about to seal the deal with a kiss, flanked by the kids (out of frame), who appeared to be quite excited by the whole event.

The wedding was not at all what I had expected. For one thing, the official ceremony was held mostly in English. It’s true that many of the family and guests did not speak Dutch, but we were, after all, in a non-English speaking country and a local official was conducting the ceremony.

And then there was the party. I don’t know why, but I was prepared for a straight-laced and prim affair. Perhaps it was the setting—a former estate, then a religious girls school, and now a hotel (see photo). It wasn’t like that at all. At different times, the family and guests donned local costumes, including wooden clogs, sang traditional songs and others written specially for the occasions, and reminisced about time they had spent in prison.
New Faces, cont.

months at ISI working on adjustable autonomy with the Elves project. So, when Milind Tambe offered me a chance to come back I jumped! I am currently working with David Pynadath and Milind on adjustable autonomy and with Jay Modi and Wei Min Shen on Dynamite.

SNEHALL THAKKAR  
THAKKAR@ISI.EDU

Hi,

Like one in five people on the earth, I was born and raised in India. I grew up playing and watching cricket in the streets (and breaking windows in the neighborhood houses). Unfortunately, that did not last long enough as I joined part time computer classes during high school. In January 1997, I joined Wright State University in Dayton, OH. I found undergraduate education really boring initially as I was taking Sociology, Psychology and History during my first quarter of study as Computer Engineering major! To make the matters worse, the professor decided to give us printed notes in addition to the huge 450-page Psychology book! If that wasn’t enough, literally every office on campus decided to send me tons of paperwork ranging from health insurance to offer for a credit card with a low interest rate. I slept my way through some of the History lectures from 8am to 11am on Fridays and Psychology lectures from 1pm to 2pm. In September 1997, I joined Scitex as Information Systems Intern. On my first day my boss, showed me how to open some Oracle developer tools that I had never seen before, how to use ftp and gave me three different programs to work on for the rest of the week. I bugged my co-workers and fellow interns for a long time and slept on the Oracle course books on the weekends. All the work paid off in December 1998, when I became Oracle Certified Application Developer and Microsoft Certified Professional (SQL server 6.5 database design). For those of you who want to get certified on SQL server, the first time I actually used SQL server was three days back on 23rd, October 2001. Anyway, I finished my B.S. in Computer Engineering in December 1999 with GPA of 3.798. After my graduation ceremony, I went to work where my manager called me and told me that now I was qualified to see a poster on her cubical wall that had Dilbert cartoon saying: "The rude awakening I for fresh college graduate : No one cares about your GPA in the industry!"

As I found out later on in my career, my GPA did help me get into USC masters program. During my first class(CS 599) at USC, the professor arrived 10 minutes late and the lecture (introduction and admin stuff) was over in 20 minutes. The class was suppose to run for 3 hours and I could not help but ask fellow student (who happen to work as RA under the prof) if all classes at USC were like this or was it just this professor? Anyway, as it turned out, I really enjoyed the class and impressed the professor (Cyrus Shahabi) enough to give me a research assistant position! I worked on Active Templates project (which changed names almost every month and is now called Spatio-Temporal Information Integration (Moving Objects))). By the time I joined Cyrus’ group I had found out that I couldn’t be religious about programming languages and started programming in Java. The project turned out to be a shared project with Craig Knoblock’s group and one of the fellow students drove me to ISI for the first time for a meeting on Friday at 1:30pm. I finished Masters in August 2001 and after a long debate decided to join Craig’s group at ISI.

Unlike most people who move from Ohio to California, I don’t enjoy the weather mainly because I enjoy getting wet in the rain and playing in the snow in the winter. I do enjoy teasing my cousins and my brother that they cannot go play outside while I can, but that is a different story. I made long commute from Burbank to USC and then from Burbank to ISI, so as you can imagine I hate the LA traffic and make comments like – “405 is not a freeway, but a big parking lot”. Like fellow Indian students, I miss Indian food, cricket and Indian festivals. I enjoy going out and playing any sport that I can get my hands on (of course, I am not good at any sport, but cricket, solitaire and freecell (What, freecell doesn’t count as a sport?)). If you want to find out more about me or want me to find out more about you, please feel free to stop by at my office in room 910 or send me an email at thakkar@isi.edu.

Publications, cont.


Photos

Party for Ed and Hans

no, not to each other

Jay Modi, Jaser Adibi, Jose-Luis Ambite, Jean Oh, Deepak Ravichandran, Elena Filatova, Uli Germann, Radu Soricut, Michael Fleischman, Nick Mote, Chin-Yew Lin, Irene Geary, Kate LaBore, Tom Russ, Craig Knoblock, Kristina Lerman, Ulf Hermjakob, Paola Rizzo, Hans Chalupsky, Andrew Philpot, Lewis Johnson, Paul Rosenbloom, Daniel Marcu, Erin Shaw

Jihie Kim, Jim Blythe, Yolanda Gil, Andrew Koehn, Maland Tambe, Yigal Arens, Ed Hovy, Kevin Knight, Sheila Tejada, Norm Tubman, Geoffrey Plitt, Jeff Rickel
From the Offices of AI Grads
horn and operating headlight.

Now you may wonder how this is related to our research at all.

You see, we are solving a resource allocation problem. It involves a grid of radar sensors, and targets moving around in that grid. The sensors collaborate with each other to track those moving targets.

While replicating this setup in our lab, it was not too difficult to install radar sensors; but how to get our sample target to move?

So Milind came up with this idea of using a small toy train, and mounting our target on its top in order to make it mobile.

If you observe its engine, you'll see a shiny copper thing mounted on its top. That's the target we use for tracking. Behnam Salemi was most kind to handle the technical issues of its mounting.

So now, when you see this train running in my office between some odd looking boxes (the sensors) you need wonder no longer...

"So Milind came up with this idea of using a small toy train, and mounting our target on its top in order to make it mobile.".

I knew that research is interesting, but had no idea it could be so much fun!

Sometimes I wonder... if a train today, what next? I'm sure the future would be much more fantastic than my imagination.

If you feel like checking it out, you are most welcome to drop by 949 and I'll be happy to assist you!

This, ISD's fourth Retreat, was an unqualified success. Another Retreat should most definitely be planned. Everyone's grateful thanks go to Lauri, Kary, Fanny, and Liz, for all the preparations and dealings with the hotel, to Wei-Min Lewis and all the people who planned the social events, to the student coordinators, and to Yigal for making some of the Division's not-so-ample funds available.

**Guess who is getting married?**

Tanya Schenk and Richard Holland

**Answers:**

Guess Who!!
ISDer #1: Ulf Hermjakob, ISDer #2: Irene Geary, ISDer #3: Maria Mulsea, ISDer #4: Aram Galstyan