



# The California Tech

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P. Dormiani/The California Tech  
Ilya Fushman '03 of Tom Mannion's team proudly displays a finished dish at last Tuesday's Asian Pacific Student Union's Iron Chef Competition.

## 'Tomorrow' Spurs Rejoice; Stacks Range From 'Proliferation' to 'Who Done Her?'

By JENNY IOFINOVA and ARTHI SRINIVASAN

Once again, the campus is haunted by Ghosts, as the class of 2003 passes on the title of "Seniors" to the class below them.

Last Thursday, Caltech undergraduates participated in the annual Ditch Day tradition, in which seniors create "stacks" for underclassmen involving a series of puzzles, games and mechanical creations scattered around campus. Progressively gathering clues laid throughout in scavenger-like fashion, the underclassmen's endgame is gaining access to a senior's room, typically that of the senior who conceived the stack. Meanwhile, the seniors leave campus for the day, hoping that their rooms aren't in turn "counterstacked"—or, in some cases, hoping they are.

All of the houses had vastly different stacks. Some houses had most of the seniors participating, working individually or in small groups, and consequently had a maximum of about eight people on each stack. Others had fewer stacks and larger groups. The nature of each stack was also different. Some stacks focused on puzzle-solving, while others involved building things or searching for clues.

One of the more prominent stacks seen racing around campus was the Mario Kart stack, created by Lloyd seniors James Burgess and Anthony Sowinski. For this stack, Juhwan Yoo '06, Eric Kelsic '06, John Simon '04 and Ben Pelletier '06, dressed up as Yoshi, Toad, Princess and Mario, respectively. They then got four matching go-carts that they used to race and collect gold coins.

Another stack seen pounding away was the Ricketts Twilight Zone stack, created by Aaron Stern, Joseph Tremoulet and Ian Farmer.

Said Rachel Yohay '06, a participant on this stack, "we used a home-made electronic map device, where you enter the codes you get from your clues and the display reads where the next clue is." They also had to break through an 1800-pound block of concrete to get a clue, although they had some help from seniors and other scurves.

A popular stack at Blacker was "Nucular Proliferation: The Stack," created by Dan Fabrycky '03 and Jeff Blackburne '03. In this stack, two groups of four people each, the Americans and the Communists, competed through various puzzles and small competitions. These included a puzzle to solve a code rigged through the house lights, which spelled out different numbers when different combinations of lights were on and a pontoon boat battle in the pool in the Chester Apartment complex.

After lunch, the two groups united to "bring down the Iron Curtain,"

## Mouthwatering Mushroom Fare Marks 'Chef' Contest

By VI TRAN

Mouths watered and stomachs rumbled on Tuesday night as succulent aromas filled the air at the second annual Asian Pacific Student Union's Iron Chef Competition began at six p.m.

Tommy Trieu '04, the current president of APSU, credited the previous year's president, Sindy Tang '03, for the idea of bringing Iron Chef to Caltech. Funded by APSU, the Alumni Association, ASCIT, the Caltech Y, GSC, Student Affairs and Caltech Catering, four teams of staff members, faculty and students faced off in a cooking contest modeled after the Iron Chef television show from the Food Network.

The rules are slightly different than those of the original Iron Chef show. The Iron Chef show is known in Japan as *Ryori no Tetsujin* (Cooking Iron Man). Basically, in the television show, Kaga Takeshi hosts four of the top chefs in culinary fields of Japanese, Chinese, French and Italian cuisine, who "battle" Kaga's Iron Chefs. These chefs are given a theme ingredient and must prepare a multi-course meal that focuses on this theme ingredient within one hour. At the end of the hour, Kaga and four judges taste the culinary concoctions and declare a winner.

In the APSU version of the Iron Chef, four teams of staff, faculty knew in advance that the theme in-

gredient would be mushrooms. Given 40 minutes, they prepared at least two dishes, one of which had to be a main dish. Testing the dishes were nine judges, who made their decisions based on taste, appearance, smell, creativity and use of the secret ingredient.

Organizers awarded two prizes: best overall and most creative. APSU subsidized each team up to \$75 to pay for materials, excluding the two portable gas stoves and plates provided for each team. Since this was also Caltech's annual Asian Pacific Heritage Week, the teams were also required to prepare Asian-style dishes.

The contest finally got underway when Team 1, consisting of Campus and Auxiliary Business Services Director Tom Mannion, staffer Tim Chang, Will Heltsley '04 and Ilya Fushman '03, began cooking up a delicious-smelling seven-course meal. Several portable stoves were running as team members quickly put together quick and tasty recipes.

At the end of 40 minutes, Mannion presented the dishes with a short explanation of each. The team had prepared Norimaki sushi, with sauteed Shitake mushroom, cooked Asian spinach, Mirin-cooked egg and red snapper fish paste, prepared Cellophane noodle salad with oyster mushrooms topped with a custom made dressing which included lime juice, fish sauce, chili flakes and sugar.

Individually, Ilya Fushman had prepared Miso soup with Shitake mushrooms, while Will Heltsley prepared a dish of sauteed cucumbers and mushrooms with sesame

*Continued on Page 8, Column 4*

## REGISTRAR'S OFFICE PLANS WEB SYSTEM

IN PLANNING SINCE SEPTEMBER

### Would Allow Students To Choose Courses Online

By MATTHEW WALKER

In a series of lunch time presentations this past week, the registrar's office unveiled a mock-up of its online registration page. A team from the registrar's office and the Administrative Technology Center (ATC) began planning the system back in September with the goals of embracing the use of technology and providing more effective service.

The envisioned system will allow students to browse course selections and edit their schedules. Advisors will have the ability to view and approve their advisees' schedules. Though the process is just entering the design phase, the team plans to have real-time transactions, continuous, 24-hour-a-week access, live support during business hours and access limited to the Caltech intranet. Unfortunately, it is not known when the system will be ready for student use.

The student portion of the system, which will use Oracle, has a series of checks to make sure the schedule doesn't break any rules. After every added course, the system checks for time conflicts, room in the class, overload and the need for instructor approval. The planned

*Continued on Page 2, Column 1*

## Brown Details Discovery, Study of Planet 'Quaoar'

By ROBERT LI

In the last Watson lecture of this academic year, Associate Professor of Planetary Astronomy Michael Brown talked about the discovery of Quaoar and its implication on our understanding of the Solar System.

Quaoar, named after the creation force of the native Tongva tribe who lived in Los Angeles before the arrival of Europeans, is the largest object in the swarm of icy bodies orbiting beyond Neptune known as the Kuiper belt.

The discovery of Quaoar has its roots in the search for Pluto, then known as Planet "X," in the latter half of the 19th century. By 1846, scientists had determined that there was still a slight perturbation in the orbits of the known planets that could not be accounted for by Neptune.

They concluded that another planet, Planet "X," must exist somewhere outside of Neptune's orbit. In 1905, Percival Lowell calculated the theoretical location of Planet "X" and built a private observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona to look for it. Lowell was unsuccessful and died in 1916 without finding Planet "X."

Thirteen years later, Clyde Tombaugh was hired by the observatory to restart the search. By a procedure of painstakingly looking at pairs of photographic plates taken from portions of the same sky at dif-

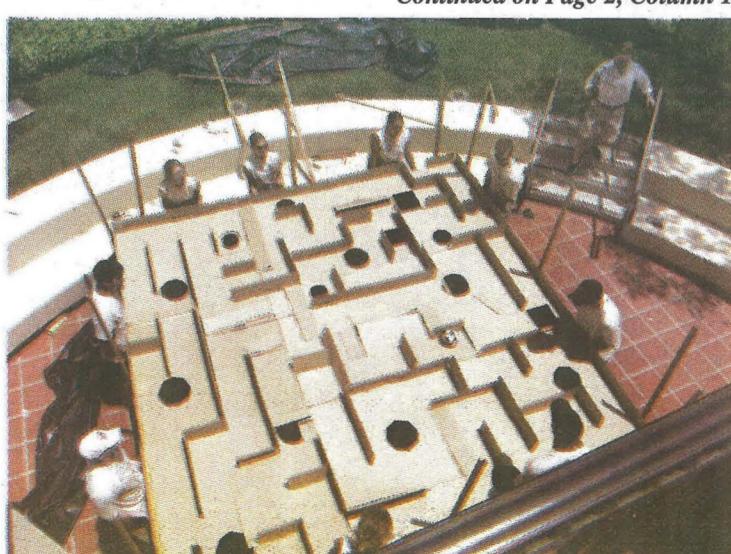
ferent times, Tombaugh discovered Pluto on February 18, 1930. When Pluto's mass was determined, however, it was insufficient to account for all of the perturbations. Scientists therefore concluded that a 10th planet might exist beyond Pluto.

Tombaugh spent the next 15 years looking for this 10th planet but did not find it.

In the 1990s scientists became aware of the Kuiper Belt, a region of small, icy bodies orbiting outside of Neptune. More than 70,000 objects in the Kuiper Belt have diameters greater than 100 kilometers and it is estimated that the Kuiper Belt contains 100 times the material as the Asteroid Belt.

Around 2002, Professor Brown and Chad Trujillo, a postdoctoral scholar working at Caltech, set out to find extremely large Kuiper Belt objects. They had looked at the distribution of mass in the Solar System and found a "edge" at the orbit of Neptune where the amount of mass present dropped precipitously. Since this conflicted with the accretion disk theory of solar system formation, which predicts a smooth decrease of mass, Brown and Trujillo hypothesized that as yet undiscovered objects in the Kuiper Belt might account for this missing mass.

Because they were the only people working on the project,



R. Forster/The California Tech  
Students navigate a soccer ball in a larger-than-life Labyrinth model by strategically tilting the game board.

*Continued on Page 2, Column 4*

## Registrar Plans Online Course Registration

*Continued from Page 1, Column 5*

system is set up to have the student submit their schedule to their advisor for approval. When the student submits his schedule, the system also checks for an overload. There is a variety of built-in messages to remind students of deadlines and requirements and to give explanations of abbreviations and the like.

The system will allow different actions, depending on what type of enrollment period is happening. Actions such as dropping core courses will not be allowed online.

Advisors will log on to the same

site to review their students' schedules and approve them. Option representatives and the dean will have added powers to review more students' schedules by searching by name, schedule status or advisor.

Currently, the system doesn't have many "bells and whistles" as the registrar's office wants to provide the service as soon as possible. Additional services that will be added in the future are the ability to view your student bill, accept financial aid and check your grade history.

Several concerns were addressed

## TRADITIONAL DANCE ON DISPLAY IN APSU WEEK



D. Korta/The California Tech

Local Chinese dancers show off traditional steps last Friday in the capstone event of the Asian-Pacific Student Union's annual Heritage Week, which featured a plethora of cultural music, food and performances, varied by day, outside Winnett.

## Media-strewn Campus Enjoys Day of Creativity

*Continued from Page 1, Column 3*

much as four weeks ago."

A Dabney stack that could be seen running around campus was the "Yu-Gi-Oh!" Stack, modeled after the card game. The participants found cards to add to their deck and eventually went to Santa Monica to eat and shop.

Some stacks took longer than others: Fabrycky's stack took over twelve hours while other stacks were done shortly after lunch.

"Blacker Special Ops: The Stack" will be completed this weekend as some parts were not ready in time for Ditch Day due to technical difficulties. Once restored, the stack will feature a four-propeller remote-controlled flying device created by Jonathan Toomey '03.

For the underclassmen, the day began at seven a.m., when they were awoken by seniors pounding on their doors, telling them that "Ditch Day is today!" Off-campus underclassmen were awakened by a phone call. Many houses had hints of the upcoming day on Wednesday Night, such as announcements at dinner.

Most houses, however, had multiple fakes—staged Ditch Days designed to fool underclassmen—and there was a campus-wide fake the Friday before Ditch Day, so there was suspicion about whether Thursday was actually Ditch Day. That is, until a campus-wide e-mail about the coming of the Jay Leno Show, a mainstay of past Ditch Days, gave it away.

For the seniors with stacks, the day began much earlier as few got sleep that night. They could not sleep much that day either due to frequent phone calls from underclassmen confused about what to do next.

Most classes granted extensions on sets due on Thursday or Friday and classes were cancelled on

Thursday to the enjoyment of everyone. Another exciting feature of the day was the numerous camera crews from television stations who interviewed students and filmed them as they did their stacks. The most notable program filming was the Jay Leno Show, which set up outside Chandler Dining Hall and talked to students for two hours on Thursday morning. A local station also sent representatives.

Lunch for 400 of the undergraduates who worked on stacks was provided by Tom Mannion. Seniors joined their stacks for the technically off-campus event. Sadly, to our knowledge, no seniors were duct-taped to trees this year.

Ditch Day has been a tradition at Caltech since 1921, although it has greatly evolved in nature since then. During the first few Ditch Days, seniors secretly planned a day to ditch their classes and escape from campus; to hide which day they would leave, they began the tradition of saying "it's tomorrow, frosh!"

The underclassmen subsequently began breaking into seniors' rooms and pranking them and the seniors began to "stack" their rooms with bookshelves or large boxes to keep the underclassmen from getting in. This became a challenge, which has since evolved into a large, elaborate puzzle, challenging underclassmen to solve the tasks seniors leave for them. There's usually a bribe at the end of the stack, historically to prevent underclassmen from "counterstacking"—pranking a senior's room after getting in.

Ditch Day this year was a success by all accounts and was exciting for everyone involved, both seniors and underclassmen. As the juniors become seniors and plan for the next Tomorrow, students all have something to look forward to.

at the presentation. The requirement of having a Caltech IP was a concern. For students not on a Caltech IP, ITS offers VPN so that the computer appears as if it were on the Caltech intranet. Despite being difficult to set up, it is the easiest solution. Also, a variety of other Caltech Web functions require a Caltech IP, so the added burden is not so much.

Freshmen would be able to register from a bank of computers when they arrived on campus in the fall. A couple of minor points included that petition status will not be available online. Spots in limited enrollment courses will be saved as soon as students enroll in the class, not when the advisor approves the schedule. The results of organizational meetings will hopefully be captured online.

The major concern was whether the link between students and their advisor would be retained. Complete online scheduling would make it too easy for advisors and students to never meet. Registrar Judith Goodstein said that to retain this contact, no automatic e-mail notification would be made to the advisors.

One idea on the table would require that a copy of the submitted schedule be sent to both the advisor and student for confirmation. Then in order to approve the schedule, the advisor would need to check a box saying that he had met with the student to discuss the schedule. The onus would be on the advisor to decide whether a meeting was warranted or to check the box without actually meeting with the student. The design team decided to further discuss the matter.

Faculty at the meeting requested a way for instructors to check the enrollment in their classes and a way to check the graduation requirements of their advisees.

### Question of the Week

When will you be able to choose courses online?



R. Forster/The California Tech  
Students in a Page House stack are well-armed for their water gun battles.

### Quaoar Compared by Diameter with Other Solar System Bodies



Courtesy of [caltech.edu](http://caltech.edu)

At last Wednesday's Watson Lecture, Associate Professor of Planetary Astronomy Michael Brown discussed how he and postdoctoral scholar Chad Trujillo discovered Quaoar, thus far the largest Kuiper Belt object.

## Planet Beyond Pluto? Brown Outlines Kuiper Research

*Continued from Page 1, Column 5*

Brown and Trujillo decided to perform an automated sky search using the Oschin Telescope at Palomar, California. The telescope, while having a small 1.2-meter diameter mirror, had a huge field of view of three square degrees and was ideally suited for this purpose.

The procedure involved taking three electronic pictures of a piece of sky at 90 minute intervals and having a computer look for moving objects of a speed and luminescence that corresponded to an object in the Kuiper Belt. Interesting objects were marked for human analysis.

After seven months of searching, the initial discovery image of Quaoar was taken at 05:41:40 UTC on June 4, 2002 and Chad Trujillo identified the object at 10:48:08 Pacific time the same day. Since official recognition of the discovery normally requires one to track the object for a period of years, Brown and Trujillo decided that instead of waiting five years, they would try searching for Quaoar in old pictures of the sky where they calculated Quaoar might be.

This proved very successful and using pictures taken in 2001, 1997 and plates taken at Caltech in 1983, Brown and Trujillo were able to confirm the orbit of Quaoar and

were given credit for the discovery by the International Astronomical Union. Since IAU rules specify that the object be named after a creation deity, Brown and Trujillo decided to name it after something local. After placing a call to the chief of the Tongva tribe, they decided on the name Quaoar.

Meanwhile, the discoverers used the Hubble Telescope and thermal measurements to determine the size of the new object. At one-eighth the volume of Pluto—or, about the volume of Pluto's moon, Charon—Quaoar was by far the largest object discovered in the Kuiper Belt and as a result made international headlines.

Technically, Quaoar is 1287.5 kilometers in diameter. It orbits the Sun in a near circular orbit of 42 AU or about six billion kilometers. Quaoar's orbit is inclined at about eight degrees to the ecliptic. Due to its size, many press reports described Quaoar as being the tenth planet.

Brown says, however, that a planet is a planet by being much larger than anything else in its area of space. Because Quaoar is surrounded by many Kuiper Belt objects, including ones of similar size, it cannot be classified as a planet.

Brown and Trujillo plan to continue their search for large objects in the Kuiper belt. Recent upgrades to the Oschin telescope have enabled them to search much greater swaths of the sky at a time. Their goal is to complete a survey of the entire Kuiper belt region.

## The California Tech

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125  
editorial desk: (626) 395-6153  
advertising desk: (626) 395-6154  
editorial e-mail: [tech@ugcs.caltech.edu](mailto:tech@ugcs.caltech.edu)

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Tammy Yee Wing Ma Vi Tuong Tran  
Managing Editor Business Manager

Kevin Carl Bartz Circulation  
News Director Chris Crabbé

Technology Tearsheets  
Leo Stein Tim Tirrell

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# ISP Wrongly Eliminated by Marshak

## Director Kia an Integral Asset to International Student Programs

By SIDHARTH JAGGI

On May 13, Parandeh Kia was relieved, effective immediately, of her dual positions as director of International Student Programs (ISP) and associate dean of Graduate Studies. Amidst a flurry of other reorganizations, administrators announced a restructuring of the International Student Programs.

In the several days following this announcement, things remained in a state of flux despite assurances that these decisions were parts of a well-thought-out plan. No student input was sought, a highly experienced staff member has been dismissed and ISP has been merged with International Scholar Services

(ISS), an organization which has existed at Caltech for less than two years and has thus far handled only immigration paperwork. ISP is therefore now organizationally a part of Human Resources rather than Student Affairs. As part of the reorganization, the position of Director of ISP no longer exists.

From a purely organizational and budgetary point of view, the reorganization seems ill-planned. If indeed ISS had a surplus capacity to provide support to the international student community, it would have been more appropriate for redundancies to have occurred there, given the ISS's inexperience in dealing with the unique Caltech student environment.



E. Adams/The California Tech

Students trying to redeem "free ice cream sundae" coupons at the Broad Cafe were denied because of an incident of copied coupons.

## Where's My Ice Cream? Honor Code Falls Short

By DIMA KAMALOV

Last Monday, while at the Broad Cafe, I witnessed an unusual incident. A friend tried to redeem a "free ice cream sundae" coupon that she got on the Ge 1 field trip from Caltech Catering and was denied. The reason? There had apparently been an incident of students copying coupons and redeeming them numerous times.

There are two problems I see here. First and foremost, the students who copied the coupon broke nearly every Western ethical code. Second, the workers at the Broad stopped trusting other students as a result of it.

When I came to campus as a prefresh, I remember hearing about the honor code as if it was something sacred. During the carnival, when I went on the slip and slide, I left my wallet on the sidewalk and didn't pick it back up until several hours later and thought "Wow, I could do this all the time!" When I first got to campus, I bought Tommy II from a book sale that consisted of a box of textbooks worth about \$300 sitting in the middle of Olive Walk, with instructions on where to send a check.

Since I've gotten to Caltech, I've had a wallet, two jackets, a backpack, a laptop and that same copy of Tommy taken. I couldn't help but pause when I first entered the bookstore and saw a large sign telling me to put my backpack into the cubicles there. I was heartbroken when the workers at Broad instituted the blanket policy mentioned above.

Thankfully, these issues are not entirely internal. Theft on campus from the outside, who see us as an easy target, is not our shortcoming in ethics. The bookstore has a fraction of customers who are not associated with Caltech. Still, while it is easy to blame the "real world" for everything, I think that a significant part of the problem lies with

our own mindsets. Problems are one thing; solutions, another. To my knowledge, photocopying coupons is legal unless prohibited directly on them. An old Page prank where they printed millions of entry forms into a local McDonald's raffle which allowed multiple entries comes to mind. Security precautions are both legal and ethical. Still, in a community that stresses trust as one of its most valued goals, I hope that people will think twice before both breaking it and not believing in it.

On a more personal note, if the people who copied the coupons would like to do something productive to make up for their actions, I'd suggest buying everyone in Ge 1 an ice cream. As a further incentive, I'd be glad to split half of the cost if you so desire. Finally, if you'd like to remain anonymous, feel free to slide \$30 or \$60 under my door and I'll do it for you.

On the other hand, if ISS were indeed operating at capacity in dealing with the student community as ISP certainly was, then laying off one person from the combined organization would certainly reduce the quality of services rendered to students, which, according to the administration is contrary to the goals of the reorganization.

Further, the current setup leaves the two remaining members of the ISP in the old ISP office. They will, according to Student Affairs Vice President Margo Marshak, "continue to provide assistance when international students confront cultural and personal issues. [They] will continue to offer programs and it will provide timely and accurate immigration advising." ISS personnel will handle immigration paperwork.

The ISS office, however, is physically located off-campus, on the northeast corner of Del Mar and Chester. It seems that this reorganization results in disintegration of student services previously offered in a unified manner.

One of the reasons ISP staffers were so successful at programming and providing support at an emotional and cultural level was because of personal interactions they had with students who originally

dropped in to handle paperwork; devolving that function to another physical location destroys that synergy. Also, their organization places an office offering crucial student affairs outside the mandate of the office of Student Affairs.

The elimination of the position of Director of ISP also has serious implications. For many student groups, Parandeh in her role of Director of ISP is a rare source of advocacy for student concerns in the often stilted dialogue between administration and students. This role requires sensitivity, experience and a sincere concern for and understanding of students. More importantly, the role of advocate requires the trust and respect of the constituency and in this regard, there is no adequate substitute for Parandeh Kia.

The international community is too important a component of the campus to experiment with; while the new staff being brought in may be competent at their job, they are indisputably inexperienced at dealing with the international community and trust at a personal level takes a long time to build up.

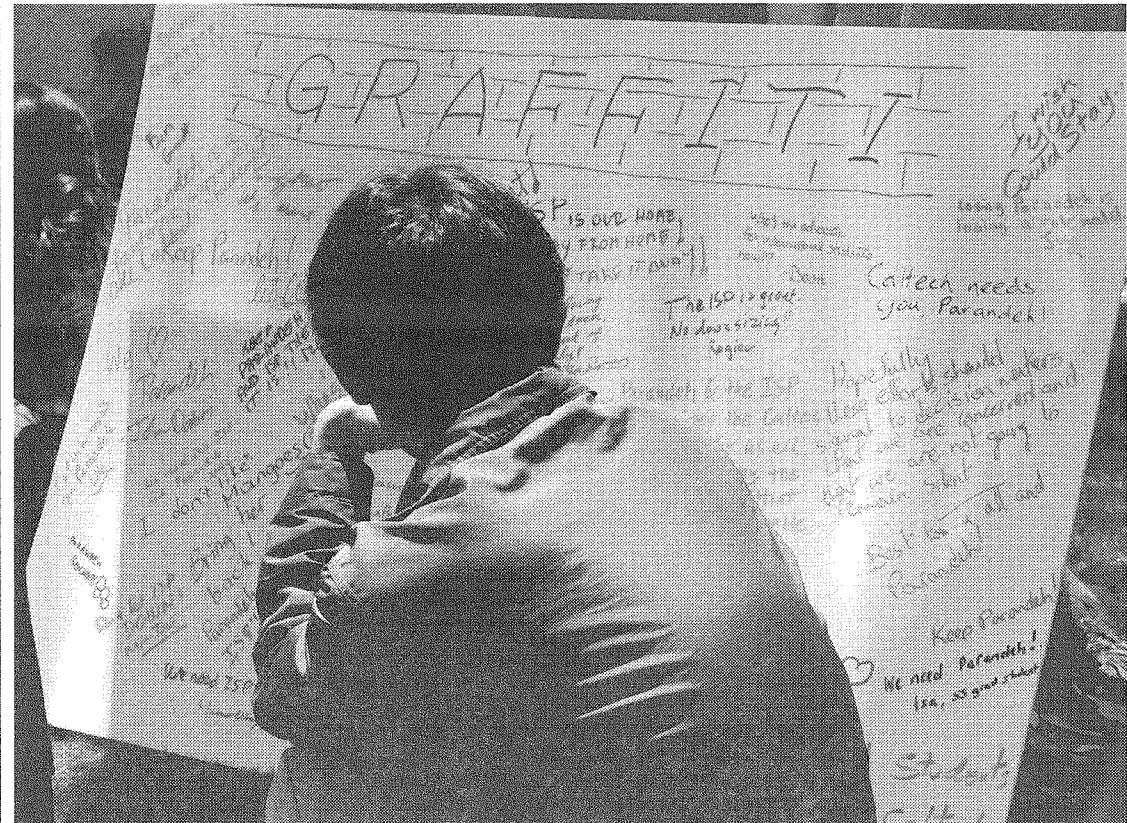
Parandeh and the ISP she has built up over ten years, is one of the few things that puts a human touch to the administration and prevents Caltech from being saddled with a faceless bureaucracy. While fiscal responsibility is essential to our continued survival, we should not

sacrifice the very things that make Caltech unique.

The administration has been deluged with e-mails and letters demanding the return of Parandeh Kia and the reinstatement of ISP as an independent organization. Within two days, over 450 signatures from both the international and the American component of the Caltech community, from graduate and undergraduate students, staff, faculty, visitors and alumni have been collected for the petition that is printed separately in this paper. An alumnus who graduated several years ago drove down to express his distress at Parandeh's being laid off.

Minority groups, international student groups, ethnic groups, to name some other groups, have expressed their strong support of Parandeh Kia and the ISP's current role in the campus. On Friday a student rally was organized by concerned members of the Caltech community in front of the Red Door Cafe to express campus-wide support for International Student Programs as an essential component of campus life and Parandeh Kia's integral role in founding, building up and running ISP. Over 150 people stopped by to listen and sign the petition.

It stands to reason that an action provoking such a strong reaction from all components of the campus community must have been made in error and must be rescinded.



D. Korta/The California Tech

A student rally collects signatures to express support for the recent elimination of Caltech's International Student Programs and removal of Parandeh Kia, director of the ISP, last Friday.

## STUDENT TRAVEL web Fares

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# The Color Orange: Agents and Alerts

*Living in Fear and Paranoia Can Have Detrimental Consequences*

By JEAN-PAUL REVEL

So here we go back to Orange as recommended by the Defense Intelligence Agency in line of the recent suicide bombings in Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

Until a few days ago I had never registered the whole scale of the terror alerts from low to guarded, elevated, high and finally, severe. Green, blue, yellow, orange and red. Not quite the right sequence for the visual spectrum, but then these guys are not physicists. I guess green is a more appropriate color for "low" than blue would be. I guess.

I am not at all reassured, however, that the basis for these ratings, being as is said, issued without specific information, is particularly useful. It does not seem that there was much telephone chatter or other warning signs prior to McVeigh's bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City. And Theodore Kaczynski, the Unabomber, operated a long time in silence. Would not smart terrorists attack at a time when their intended victims did not expect it, when the terror alert system would display the palest shades of green?

An obvious defensive move on the part of potential targets would be to communicate they are vigilant or so big and strong it would be foolish to attack. Many animals make themselves appear big or threatening as a means of defending themselves against attack. People put on frightening war paint. Carry big sticks. Speak in loud threatening tones. Is not intimidation the basis of "nuclear" policies around the world?

If the other side believes we have more and bigger bombs than they have then they'll think twice about attacking us. Just look at North Korea. And we have not yet found those barrels of agent orange, nerve gas and other lethal stockpiles. Could Saddam have been playing a bluffing game, trying to forestall attack?

All of this aside, it would seem *a priori* that the sense of awareness implied by an "orange" status would be good in general, seeing as though we do live in a dangerous place, beautiful as it seems. In spite of the blue skies, a warm sunshine, pleasant breezes, etc.— all the things that have attracted gazillions of people to Southern California—we do live near a plate boundary and associated faults. The clock is ticking.

So in a way we might even thank the terrorists. Readyng for their coming will help us at the same time to be ready for natural disasters. But we also lose so much in the atmosphere of fear and suspicion. I heard a local news broadcast recommend that one should be wary of any unusual activity, like people taking pictures of dams, public buildings, etc...

Not so long ago we used to poke fun and felt so very superior when Eastern Europeans countries banned the taking of photographs

of public buildings, dams and other obvious targets for spies. If we don't watch out, that's where we are going, down the path to paranoia.

It is a pretty delicate balancing act to insure the safety of the citizenry, us all, without at the same time threatening the freedoms we claim for ourselves and want to spread to others, sometimes willy nilly. But there are other matters, which are taking place right here, right now and so acquire a special importance.

*"You are not alone even though you might have to deal with different people."*

There are many who are very fearful of the consequences of the recent reorganization of Student Affairs. International students in particular have expressed their concern. In the director for International Student Programs they have lost a person who, they felt, had been a friend, a supporter, someone who knew of their special problems and how to deal with them. The students' apprehensions are no doubt exacerbated by a fear of rising xenophobia since September 11.

I don't know what the future will hold. What I do know, however, is that there are many on campus, who would be glad to help foreign students adjust to life in this part of

the world.

I had to learn many of these things when I came here as a grad student many years ago. I did not know how to open a bank account, had to somehow get a local driver's license, because no one would accept my "permis de conduire" and I did not understand how to order food for myself. I had to pay more than the others because I bought each item on the menu separately, rather than ordering the "meal" which included everything at a lower price.

I never managed to take my GRE but somehow nevertheless survived. I got gyped buying a bicycle and could not understand what the professors were talking about because I had so much trouble with English. And I had a terrible time doing homework because I could not write sentence that expressed complex ideas and, well, you get the picture.

You are not alone even though you might have to deal with different people. Tell us what you miss, what you need, so we know what to work on to make this place a good place to study and grow.

It is time to close and I have not even broached the biggest news of the week—you know, that Ditch Day finally arrived... from what I can tell, everyone had a great time. Thanks, seniors, for a day of good fun; thanks, professors, for your forbearance; thanks security, for your vigilant help, thanks all of you students for making it the great day it was. Next stop, finals.

Good luck to all... A bientot

## More Ways to Augment Accountability

### Extending Fletcher's Progress: Moving Accountability Further

By LIBIN ZHANG

Our beloved ASCIT President Tom Fletcher has written extensively about the need for accountability in student committees. He has proactively expanded the power of ASCIT to govern attendance in these student-faculty committees, even though normally the jurisdiction falls under the Interhouse Committee (IHC).

Judging from the ASCIT minutes and personal conversation with house presidents, there seems to be some opposition in the IHC against such an usurpation of their power, but Tom Fletcher cannot possibly be lying when he said the IHC has "helped" him first draft Resolution 26: Committee Oversight.

I say we give The Man what he wants and stop the silly IHC protests.

Being involved in one committee, I have few problems with additional work for the sake of accountability. What lingering doubts I had in my mind were erased by his analogies between committee delinquency and corporate financial scandals. While I suspect the comparison is a tad strained, the ASCIT president probably knows way more about modern issues than I do. In fact, I think we should extend accountability even further, so I have helpfully drafted the following resolution for our student government.

#### Committee Oversight Resolution

**Section I:** There is a need for supervision of ASCIT Board of Director (BoD) members for them to be accessible and accountable to the community.

**Section II:** Each BoD member is required to submit to the IHC short written summaries of all meetings he attends in his capacity as a director. These summaries are to be



disseminated to the student body via whatever means are deemed necessary. Guidelines for a summary: list of students in attendance; list of agenda topics covered; any additional explanation of topics covered deemed necessary by the representatives.

**Section III:** Failure to attend and/or submit summaries from two or more meetings of the BoD will be deemed as grounds for recall and immediate replacement. A temporary appointment will be made by the IHC until a proper replacement can be obtained by the appointing body.

This way, the ASCIT BoD is fully "accountable" to the student body and none of our superiors can hope to skip more than one meeting. While the multiple reports may seem a bit redundant, they won't be read anyway.

"Accountability" can be extended

## Are You Represented? Your Role in the IHC's Mission

By JESSIE SUEN

It may be apparent to most Caltech undergraduates that political activism is not a prominent feature of the school. In fact, Caltech is currently ranked 17th in the "Election? What election?" category of the Princeton Review's *The Best 345 Colleges*.

While various positions on faculty-student committees, the IHC and ASCIT would tend to encourage students to make a difference, the recurring trend seems to be of a relatively small group of students occupying multiple positions on these committees while the rest of the undergraduate population complacently, even apathetically, accepts the changes made by this group. With a few notable exceptions, most proceedings of the "ruling bodies" fail to arouse interest among the students.

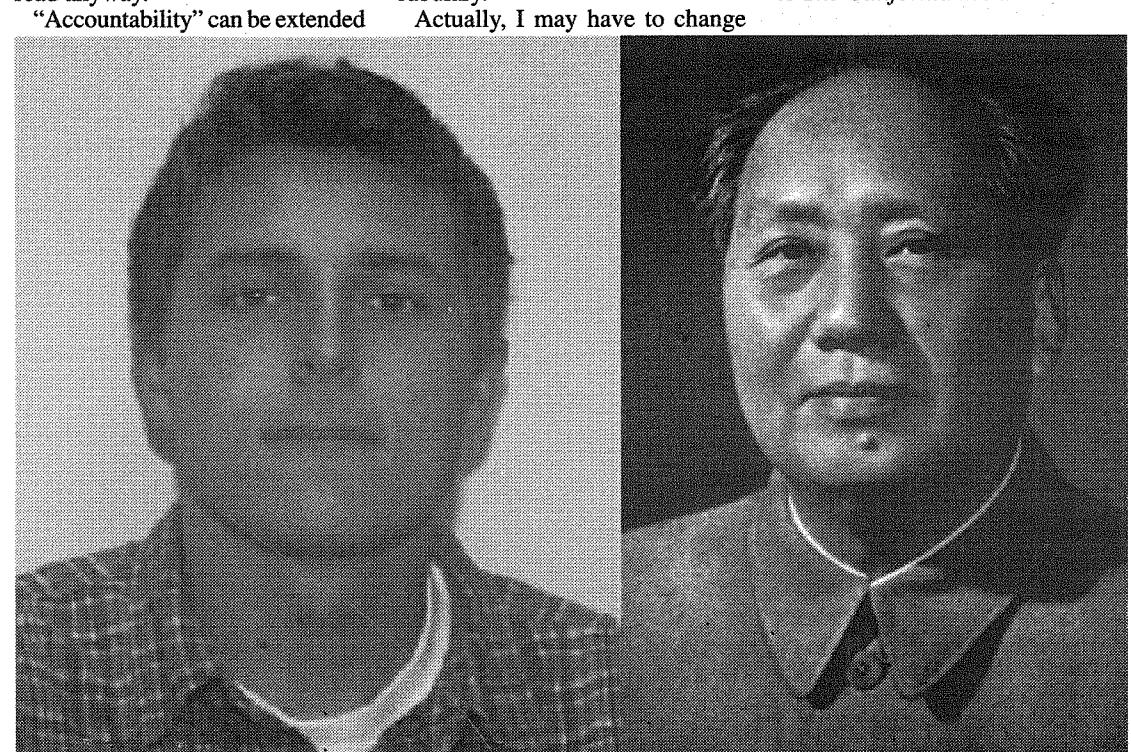
As some may—or more likely may not—have noticed, a petition was started over the weekend to reverse a recent IHC ruling. The ruling will enforce a previous policy adopted by the IHC two years ago, which restricts members of multiple houses to participating in only one picks process.

There are strong arguments both for and against this policy as it relates to room picks; I will not, however, discuss them here. Instead, I would like to point out the absence of student input in a decision which affects virtually all undergraduates, directly or indirectly.

"IHC" to "Housing Committee" in my committee resolution, since the IHC is rather busy. The Housing Committee is technically supposed to deal with only housing, but it can certainly try to extend its hegemony by passing resolutions. Committee leader Manuel Garcia may have to excuse himself due to conflict of interest, being also CRC co-chair, but I'm sure the alternates will bear the mantle of maintaining "accountability" in ASCIT.

On a side note, Tom Fletcher emailed some "Course Registration Advice" to about 50 students that he considers student leaders. Hoping to "nurture [their] leadership," he recommends that they take BEM/Ec 146, a class in organizational design. If you did not get one of these e-mails, you probably don't have any leadership qualities, but you can still sign up for the class and see what made Tom the great ruler he is today.

Thanks for reading my proposal and stay tuned for next week, when I will review Tom Fletcher's campaign promise to give more money to *The California Tech*.



Courtesy of L. Zhang

# The IHC Today: Staffing, Multiple House Card Picks

By JEREMY PITTS

As per Tom Fletcher's model, I have decided to intermittently submit articles to *The Tech* to let everyone know what's new with the IHC. If you are only reading this article because you expect to see a moment of Zen at the end, you should probably stop reading now.

## Student Affairs Restructuring

The restructuring of student affairs did not come as a complete shock to us, as there has been talk of it for some time now, but I think we were all surprised a bit by the suddenness and the severity of it. The IHC had actually written a letter to Margo Marshak to let her know what parts of student affairs we consider crucial and what parts are expendable, since we knew that she would not be coming to us for input in making decisions that involve laying off personnel.

Unfortunately, we gave her the letter the day before the big announcement was made, so it does not seem that any student input was involved in her decision. On the plus side though, she did seem responsive to the letter and will hopefully try to ensure that the services that we consider crucial are maintained. To give a brief summary of what we wrote in the letter to Marshak and what we will continue to push for, here are the five main points we made:

First, *communications*: we feel that effective communications between students and administrators is crucial and that student input should be sought in all decisions affecting us. We also suggested the idea of having administrator office hours, to give everyone a chance to talk to administrators, instead of only members of the IHC and ASCIT having access to them.

Second, *defined structure and policies*: we are asking that a document is published detailing different administrative responsibilities and hierarchy, which will allow students to address their concerns to the appropriate party. Policies should also be easily accessible to students.

Third, *administrative workload*: we are very concerned that certain administrators, such as Tom Mannion, will be overworked with their new responsibilities under the new restructuring. We are going to watch this very carefully and speak up if it seems any services are declining because of this.

Fourth, *disciplinary procedures*: we are asking that the changes that will have to be made to these procedures will respect the hard work that was put into their current state and that students, administrators and faculty are all involved in the changes. Also, we feel very strongly that our self-governance be preserved.

Fifth, *the RA system*: our RAs are valuable resources to us and they should remain as such. One part of this is ensuring that RAs are always members of the Caltech community, not brought in from external sources.

The IHC will work hard to ensure that all of these issues remain in a beneficial state to us. It will be an interesting time during this transition period. The absence of Kim West and Sue Friedman will definitely be noticed, but we look forward to working together with Tom Mannion to ensure things continue to run smoothly.

## Multiple House Room Picks

As many of you know, the IHC recently made a decision to not allow people with multiple house memberships to draw a card in more than one house. This decision was made following what we

thought had been the policy for at least the last two years. Rest assured that we are listening to those of you who have a problem with this decision. The petition that was circulating will not be ignored.

Please know, however, that the decision we made was for this year only. There was no resolution passed on the issue. The current resolutions are very vague on this issue and clarifying it is something we will be looking at in the future. If you have an opinion on how this issue should be dealt with, please let me or any other member of the IHC know. Our job is to represent, not to dictate and your opinion will be heard.

## Decline in Custodial Service

At some point in the past, a decision was made that it was not cost-effective to have housing oversee their own custodians while physical plant oversees all the other custodians on campus. The housing custodial staff was transferred so that they report to physical plant.

This arrangement worked fine at first, but physical plant has apparently decided that the houses are overstuffed and they cut the number of custodians in the student houses. I am sure that many of you have noticed many of the familiar faces in your houses gone recently.

Tom Mannion and Margo Marshak agree with us that since we live in the houses, they require a higher concentration of custodians than other buildings do. We will also be meeting with Delmy Emerson, who oversees the custodial staff, along with Tom Mannion and Tim Chang, on Tuesday to get this issue resolved as quickly as possible.

The IHC remains open to anyone with suggestions. Note also that, despite my use of the pronoun "we," any opinions expressed above are mine and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the entire IHC.



The house system has long been a strong point of Caltech life, but is it right for everyone? Ted Jou '03 examines the question in this week's rendition of his "What's Wrong" series.

## What's Wrong With the House System? Rotation Secrecy and the Fresh Campus Housing Requirement

By TED JOU

Ditch Day is one of our oldest traditions and this week I'm writing about our seven bastions of tradition. There are other schools with honor systems and other schools with demanding curricula, but there is no other school in the country with seven houses quite like ours.

Preserving the student houses should be one of our highest priorities as a student body, but we've come dangerously close to jeopardizing the house system in the past few years. Digging in our heels and crossing our fingers isn't going to work forever. This week, I ask, "What is wrong with the house system?"

I've thought about this a lot during my years at Caltech and I've come to realize that all problems

with the house system come from the beginning: rotation needs some serious work. Most students think that there can't be much wrong with rotation because it has been doing fine for so long.

*"There is no other school in the country with seven houses quite like ours."*

The truth, however, is that our present rotation system is a bastardization of the carefully crafted procedure of the past. Former ASCIT President Eric Tuttle put together a detailed study of the last time rotation was reinvented and I encourage all students to read his work in Appendix C of the TURLI.

The biggest problem with rotation is that even if we wanted change, nobody knows enough about the process to change things. Every year, the IHC asks whether or not the picks procedure should be made public. I recently realized that some people understood this statement differently from me. I check yes not because I would like to see the names of each freshman and the order in which they are picked. Picks should still occur in a secret location and nobody should ever know whether they were a high pick or a low pick when they get into a house. All I would like to see is the rules for picks stated explicitly to the student body.

To borrow a slogan from the current ASCIT BoD, the first step to fixing anything is transparency. As long as rotation picks remain shrouded in secrecy, there will be major problems left unsolved. Even the BoC procedures are written out for everyone to see in the *little t*. There is no good reason Rotation should be more secretive than the BoC.

I know I am not the only person who sees problems with rotation. There are many students on campus that complain about Rotation and administrators always cite anonymous students when they speak against our traditions. I would never trade our current system for random assignment, but there are definitely some students on campus who would.

As the number of students living off-campus grows, so too do these complaints. We usually dismiss these people as anomalies; we say that the house system doesn't work

for everyone, but that it is invaluable for the majority of students. We don't want to make things worse for everyone else just to help a couple students feel better, but there might be ways to help these students without making things worse for everyone else.

I always thought it was ridiculous that a freshman can be forced to live in a house he doesn't like while there is an upperclassman who would love to have that room. It is usually these unhappy freshmen who are complaining to administrators about traditions and reporting upperclassmen for hazing violations. Getting these students out of their houses would go a long way towards preserving our system.

We shouldn't force a student to live somewhere he hates. It's bad for the student, bad for the house and bad for the entire house system. If we think the house system isn't for everyone, there's no reason everyone has to participate. While houses can always tolerate a few freshmen they might not have wanted, the system breaks down when a freshman hates the house he's in.

Perhaps freshmen could be allowed to rank fewer than four houses and face the possibility of not being picked. Maybe freshmen should be allowed to move off during first term. We could even allow some IHC-approved room swaps between freshmen after picks. Maybe we could simply return to the old system of listing four houses without number ranks; this would de-emphasize the freshman role in the process and would avoid setting freshmen up for disappointment.

Unfortunately, students would need to know what the rankings mean in order to make any informed changes to the ranking system and that would require the picks procedure to be public. For that matter, freshmen can't really "rank honestly" when they don't know what the rankings mean.

I'm sure many students have ideas for how to improve rotation, but none of them will ever be implemented as long as the picks procedure is a secret. More and more students will just complain to the administration and the next time a big incident happens, the administration will feel justified in dismantling the house system.

Administrators are listening, so the student body can't afford to just ignore the complaints of the minority. It is imperative that we try to fix as many of our own problems as we can. With Rotation, the IHC isn't even giving us a chance.

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## ASCIT Minutes

May 15th, 2003, 12:02 PM, SAC 33

Present: Joanna Cohen, Tom Fletcher, Kim Hiscox, Kathryn Hsu, Galen Loram, Jeremy Pitts, Anna Szaniecka, Andrea Vasconcellos, & Corinna Zygourakis.

Guests: Nora DeDontney, Natalia Deligne, Aaron Ester-Kahn, Julia Ma, Jason Schadewald, Leo Stein, & Others.

## Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. David Kurtz requested Interhouse funding for Fleming's Interhouse party. BFP. Vote: 4-0-1, approved.
3. Natalia requested \$30 for Food Committee meetings. Vote: 5-0-0, approved.
4. Liz Fehnagle is the Chair of the new ASCIT Excom.

5. The last day to submit revisions for the resolution is Wednesday, May 28th. It needs to be voted on before the Faculty Board meeting

on Wednesday, June 4th. Natalia requested that any revisions be forwarded to the IHC.

6. Interviews for the Institute Art and Institute Programs Committees will take place on Sunday, June 1st at 10:00 p.m.

7. Dabney is requesting \$200 for Metal Night, currently scheduled on Saturday during the ASCIT Formal. The BoD decides that they should receive funding only if they reschedule it for Friday. Vote: 6-0-2, approved.

8. Aaron Ester-Kahn showed the BoD a list of comics that he would like to buy for the Caltech Coffee House. Vote: 8-0-0, approved.

## 9. Officer Reports

Next Tuesday, May 27th, Tom, Kathryn and Galen will meet with the Faculty Board and hear from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies Committee.

Galen will meet with the Social Sciences next Wednesday, May 28th. Natalia says that she has heard good things about the last presentation the BoC gave to GPS. Other than that, Galen says there has been "loads of business."

Joanna is going to pick up an ASCIT credit card this week, with her very own name on it.

Kathryn says that the ARC has finished making their ASCIT Teaching Award nominations. Vote: 7-0-1, approved. Kathryn is ordering

## NEWS

MAY 26, 2003

plaques for the ASCIT Teaching Awards and organizing a luncheon. She is also working on putting together a survey for the SFC conference, which will be directed at faculty and students.

Jeremy says that there will be an IHC Social Hour this Friday, April 23rd from 4:00-6:00 PM in the RF courtyard. There will be jazz, food and drinks. On more serious note, P Plant reorganized some of the janitorial staff, resulting in a shortage in the student houses. The IHC will meet with P Plant on Monday, May 26th.

Kim says that plans for ASCIT Formal are proceeding smoothly.

Andrea should start thinking about recruiting possible replacements when she goes to Cambridge next term.

Cornina has club checks ready and waiting. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anna Szaniecka  
ASCIT Secretary

**Student Affairs** is pleased to announce that the following offices will be open from noon to 1:00 p.m. every weekday during the academic year. This change was prompted by the comments from undergraduates on a survey conducted in preparation for the Student Faculty

Conference. Many students indicated that they are free during this time and would like to avail themselves of our services during lunch. We are delighted to be able to respond to this student request.

The Offices that will be open during lunch include:

Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation  
Bursar's Office  
Career Development Center  
Dean of Students  
Financial Aid  
Graduate Studies  
International Student Programs  
Minority Student Education  
Registrar  
Residence Life and Master of Student Houses  
Undergraduate Admissions  
Women's Center  
Caltech Y

**2003 McKinney Competition Winners.** The McKinney Committee of the Caltech Literature Faculty is pleased to announce the winners in the 2003 contest for excellence in writing. In the category of non-fiction essay, the prize is awarded to Juan Ramon Garcia. Isaac Hilburn is the winner in the poetry competition. No prize was awarded in prose fiction. Honorable mention is given to Robin Deis, Miling Yan, Nicholas Rupprecht and Michael Clemons II.

**Hixon Writing Center.** Would you like a sounding board for an essay or report that you're writing? Need help with a statement for a research proposal or a grad school application? Visit the Hixon Writing Center for a free and confidential writing conference with an English instructor or peer writing tutor. A writing consultation can benefit writers at all levels of ability. Consultants provide supportive, informed feedback at any stage of the writing process from brainstorming and drafting, to editing and revising. They can also help with writer's block or second-language issues. Consultants do not merely proofread papers or provide remedial grammar instruction, but help writers develop methods for improving their own work. Where: Dabney Hall, room 1 (basement). When: Sunday-Thursday, 4:30-6 & 8:30-10 p.m. Other times by appointment: email [writers@caltech.edu](mailto:writers@caltech.edu). For more information, go to <http://writing.caltech.edu>.

**Athenaeum Tennis Ladder.** All Athenaeum members and their families are invited to join the Athenaeum's managed singles and doubles

tennis ladders. Once per month, ladder managers will post matches to be completed by the end of the month. Players contact each other to arrange mutually agreeable date and time to play. Matches are formed between players within a few ladder runs of one another. The ladder includes both men and women and all levels of play are welcome. For doubles play, one team member must be a current Athenaeum member. Each year trophies will be awarded. Signups welcome at any time. For more information, contact Rich Dekany at [rgd@astro.caltech.edu](mailto:rgd@astro.caltech.edu).

**The Caltech Entrepreneur Club** will be hosting Richard Koffler of Koffler Ventures, on Wednesday the 28th at 4 p.m. in the Avery Library for a talk entitled "What Makes a Successful Entrepreneur". Mr. Koffler has been successfully launching companies for over 20 years, is a member of the Tech Coast Angels, the executive director of the Software Council of Southern California and a member of the advisory board of the Center for Small Business & Entrepreneurship at CalState-Northridge. This event will also be coupled with an opportunity to network with others at Caltech, as well as business minded peers from nearby colleges. For more information, see the club website at <http://club.caltech.edu> or email us at [club@caltech.edu](mailto:club@caltech.edu). There will be food, so an RSVP is appreciated, although not necessary.

**Build Bridges at your Leisure.**

Building Bridges is a student run club founded specifically for doing community service. Whether you want to do community service in order to achieve fulfillment in life or simply to help you get into graduate or professional school, Building Bridges can use your help. Perhaps your worldview has broadened and you realize that there are lots of people whose lives are worse than your own, unlikely as that may seem. Perhaps you need community service hours to put on your transfer application or to fulfill a court order. We have programs to donate gifts to children all over the world, food and clothes drives to benefit the homeless and tutoring and mentoring programs to benefit disadvantaged students. Even a few hours a month makes a difference and is enough to put on your resume. You can even get paid if you have federal work study.

For more information visit <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~bbbridges/race.html> or email [bb-excomm@its.caltech.edu](mailto:bb-excomm@its.caltech.edu).

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



P. Dormiani/The California Tech

**Business titans examine upcoming venture opportunities for fuel cells in last Tuesday's Caltech-MIT Enterprise Forum.**

## Voting Expert Alvarez Appointed to HAVA

By DEBORAH WILLIAMS-HEDGES

Michael Alvarez, professor of political science at the California Institute of Technology, has been appointed to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) California State Plan Advisory Committee.

The purpose of the committee is to seek public input and provide policy guidance to assist the secretary of state of California in drafting the state's initial plan for compliance with federal mandates contained in HAVA.

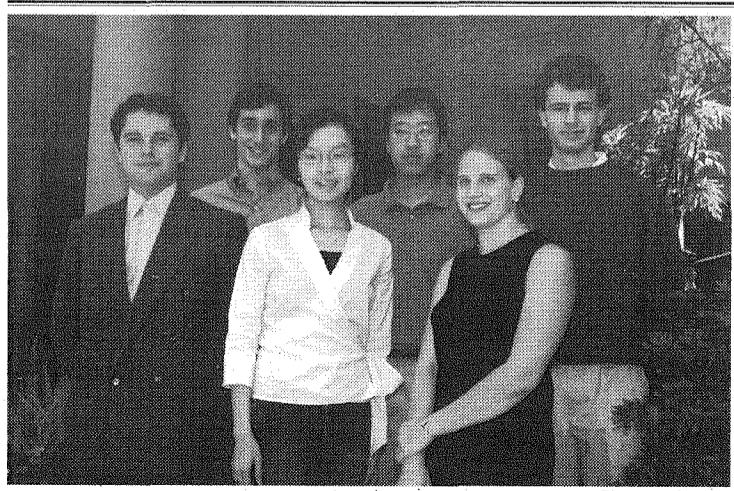
The 23-member committee is composed of "individuals who are selected for their expertise, knowledge and because they are stakeholders in the elections community," said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley.

The Help America Vote Act will fundamentally alter the way elections are conducted in California and across the nation. Signed into law on October 29, 2002, HAVA is creating a new federal agency, the Election Assistance Commission, to

serve as a national clearinghouse on election information and to provide federal standards for voting systems. HAVA will require all states to implement sweeping changes by next year--during the presidential election cycle--to ensure preparedness and efficiency for future elections.

Alvarez was a team member and co-director of the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project, which analyzed the voting technology system in the United States after the controversial 2000 presidential election and made recommendations for improvements to the American voting system.

According to Alvarez, "The Caltech/MIT team was involved in the development of HAVA and most of the recommendations in our 2001 report found their way into HAVA. It is exciting now to be part of the process that will make the provisions of HAVA a reality for California."



Courtesy of B. Paz

**Winners of a host of scholar awards pose outside the Ath. Top row: Patrick Hummel '06, Paul Choi '03, Dario Amodei '05. Bottom row: Cristian Jitianu '04, Angel Kong '04, Theresa Tiefenbrunn '04.**

## DEANS AWARD FRESH SET OF YEARLY PRIZES

Green, Froehlich, Xi,

Smit, Ford Award

Outstanding

By MALINA CHANG

The Green, Froehlich, Haagen-Smit, Sigma Xi and Henry Ford II Scholar Awards for this year were presented last Tuesday at a luncheon in the Athenaeum, hosted by Dean of Students Jean-Paul Revel and Associate Dean Barbara Green.

Dario Amodei '05, a physics major, and Patrick Hummel '06, a math major, received the George W. Green Prize. The Green Prize is awarded to an undergraduate student in any class for original research, an original paper or essay or other evidence of creative scholarship beyond the normal requirements of specific courses.

The Jack E. Froehlich Memorial Award is for outstanding juniors in the top 5% of the class. Cristian Jitianu '04 was selected this year.

Theresa Tiefenbrunn '04, a dual chemistry and biology major, won the Arie J. Haagen-Smit Memorial Award, which is given to a chemist or biologist who has shown academic promise.

Paul Choi '03, a senior majoring in chemistry, received this year's Sigma Xi award. This award is given to a senior for an outstanding piece of original scientific research.

Angel Kong '04, a junior in electrical engineering, is this year's recipient of the Henry Ford II Scholar Award. This prize is given to the engineering student with the best academic record at the end of the third year of undergraduate study.

## Speaking Club to Stage Mock U. Michigan Case

By IRAM PARVEEN-BILAL

With Richard Tapia's visit two weeks earlier discussing the importance of diversity in American institutions and with the rising concerns of the international students and minority students at Caltech, it would seem exactly the right time to have a discussion on the arguments for and against specific methods of selective admission of minorities to institutions of higher education.

Two prominent cases currently in the limelight regarding universities' admission policies are the University of Michigan affirmative action cases, and Caltech Public Speaking is bringing students to debate these cases which will actually be decided by the Supreme Court in June. There will be a mock trial this Wednesday at five p.m. in Baxter Lecture Hall open to everyone.

There will be two teams, each comprising two students, all four being undergraduates. Two will speak for UM and the other two, against. The students speaking for are Shelby Montague '06 and Viet Ngo '06 and the students speaking against are Ted Jou '03 and James Rebesco '04. Robin Deis '04, from Professor Kousser's supreme court class last term, summarized the two cases, *Gratz and Hamacher v. Bollinger* and *Grutter v. Bollinger*.

*Gratz and Hamacher v. Bollinger* involves the undergraduate admissions policies at the University of Michigan College of Letters, Arts

and Sciences. The question is whether under a "points" plan—in which you give a certain number of points for academic qualifications like test scores and grades, and once you're over a given total, you're admitted—is legal and just.

In earlier cases regarding affirmative action, the Supreme Court ruled that affirmative action in and of itself is okay, but that a specific quota policy is unconstitutional. The UM law school tried to get around this ruling by having a "critical mass" policy, in which their goal is to enroll meaningful numbers of minority students.

Grutter, however, argues that since this "critical mass" is always around the same percentage of the incoming class, it constitutes an illegal quota. So it is interesting to see how, even though there is always this unmentioned bias towards getting a minority student to increase the diversity, it is illegal to put the bias down in a distinct formula.

This should prove a very interesting trial to know how Caltech's amateur decision compares with that of the Supreme Court being announced in June.

The format of these two trials will be semi-formal, court-style. We have three judges who will mediate and judge the trial, making it a proper trial-like session, which should be entertaining for the audience.

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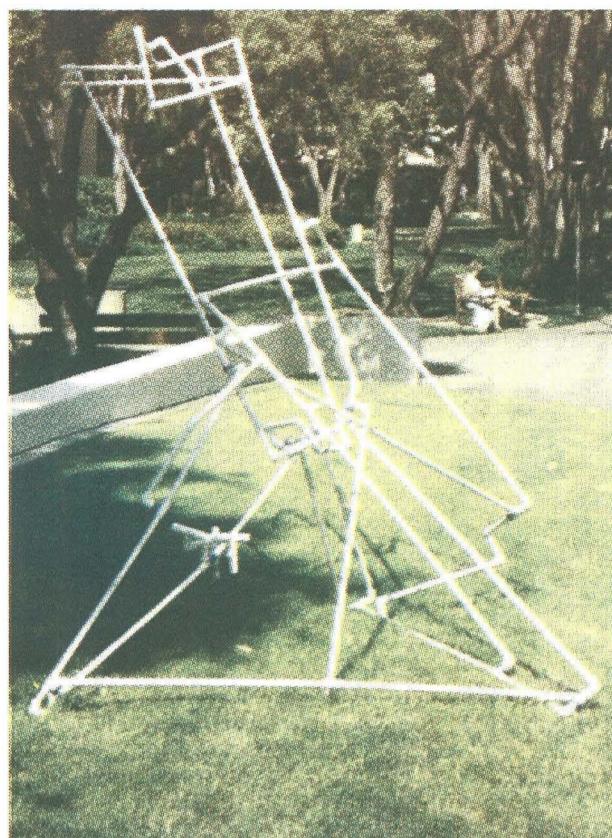


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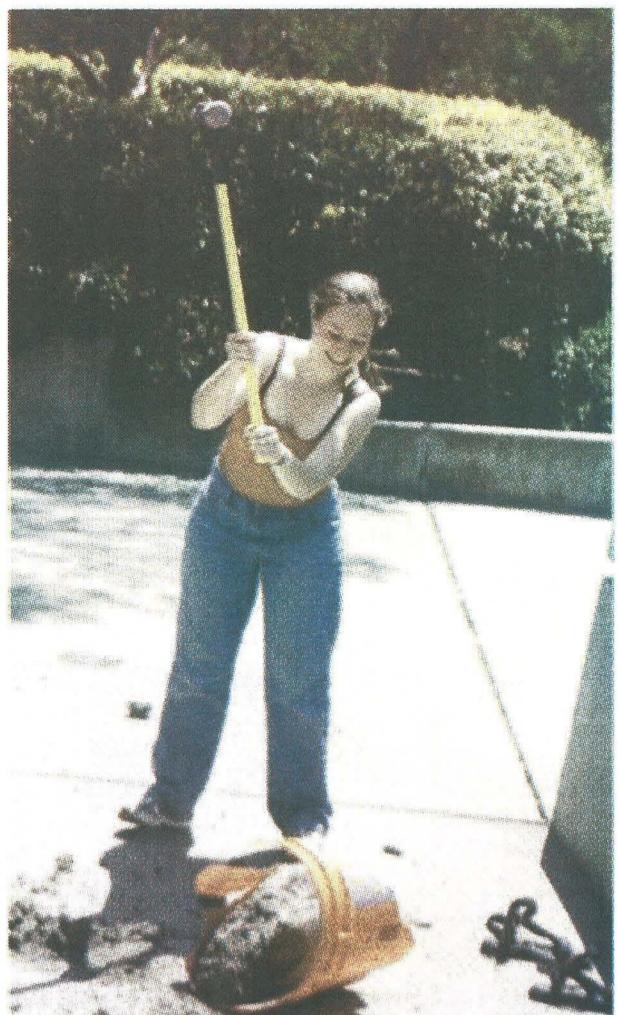
# DITCH DAY 2003



*R. Forster/The California Tech*  
"They aren't supposed to break this early!" Mario Kart stack members fix their carts.



*R. Forster/The California Tech*  
A pipe sculpture hides one of Dean Jean-Paul Revel's lost marbles, which students removed by rotating and shaking the structure.



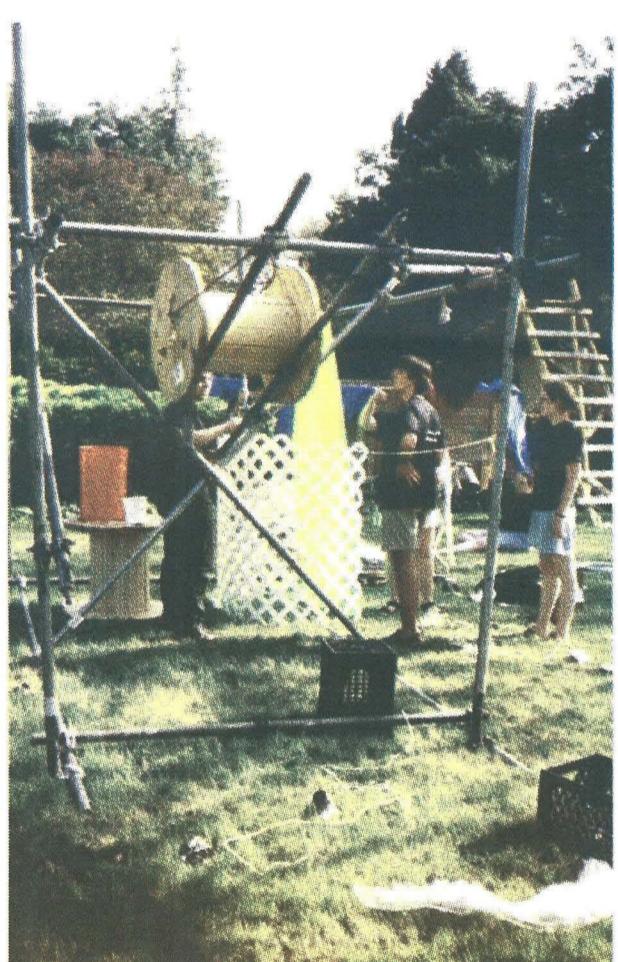
*R. Forster/The California Tech*  
An underclassmen hammers a concrete-filled bucket to uncover a hidden clue.



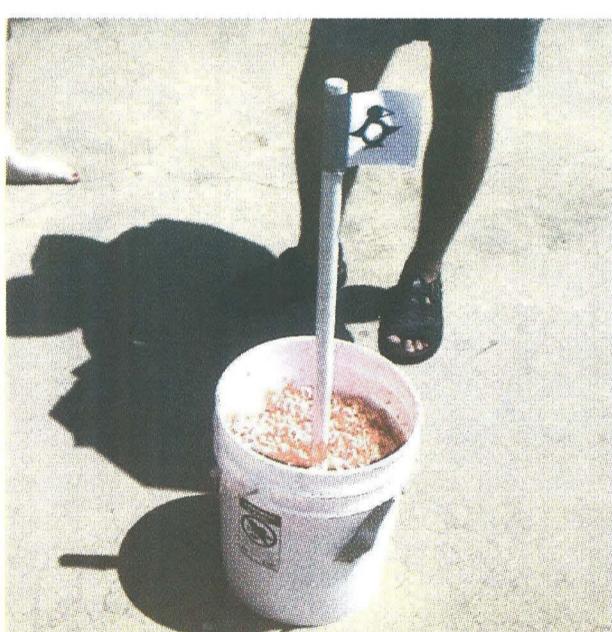
*R. Forster/The California Tech*  
"He said they'd be done a couple hours ago!" Members of Ricketts' Twilight stack take a break from their brute-force efforts to extract a key from a concrete block.



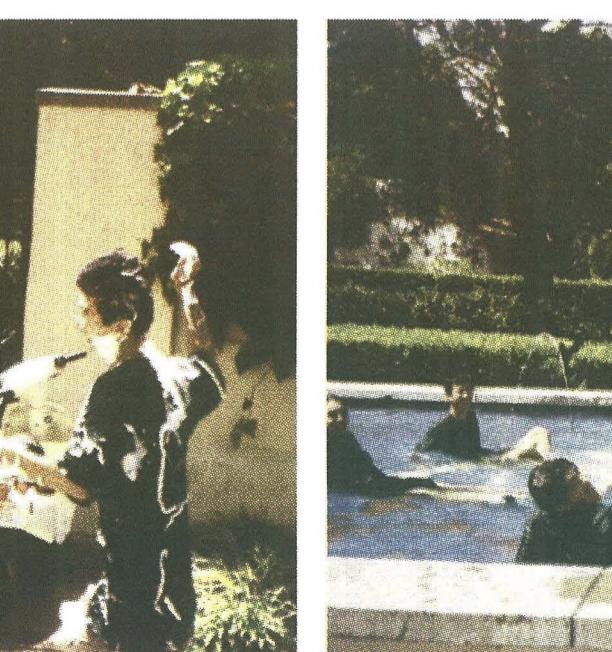
*R. Forster/The California Tech*  
A pinata in the form of President David Baltimore stands ready to be swatted by students' bats. The stack's members were ultimately rewarded with candy inside.



*R. Forster/The California Tech*  
Fear the Penguins members build a Rube-Goldberg device to trap a polar bear. Components included mouse traps and marbles, which eventually were used to drop the trap's door on the bear.



*R. Forster/The California Tech*  
"This better not be lunch!" Students in Blacker's Fear the Penguins stack find a bucket of macaroni.



*R. Forster/The California Tech*  
After a water balloon ambush, a free-for-all with shaving cream ensues as part of this Fleming House stack.



*R. Forster/The California Tech*  
Students wash and cool off in the Gene Pool after a shaving cream battle minutes earlier.

## UNDERGRAD. TRIO WINS GOLDWATER ACADEMIC PRIZES

By DEBORAH WILLIAMS

Three undergraduate students—Po-Sher Loh '04, Victor Tsai '04 and Joe Wasem '05—recently earned Goldwater Scholarships for this academic year.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation awards these academic merit scholarships to undergraduate sophomores and juniors from across the nation. The recipients were chosen from 1,093 mathematics, science and engineering students who were nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide.

The one- and two-year scholarships will cover the cost of tuition, fees, books and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.

The Goldwater Foundation is a federally endowed agency. The scholarship program, honoring the late Senator Barry M. Goldwater, was designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering.

The Goldwater Scholarship is one of the premier undergraduate awards of its type in these fields. The foundation, to date, has awarded 3,962 scholarships worth approximately \$39 million dollars. The trustees plan to award about 300 scholarships for the next academic year.

## Pruferk Team Takes APSU's Mushroom Title

*Continued from Page 1, Column 4*

seeds. On top of all these appetizing dishes, Team 1 presented a Cambodian Hot Pot, a fricassee of mushrooms and diver scallops served on Morell and Porcini mushrooms with white truffle oil.

To give the judges time to sample each dish, the teams' start times were staggered by intervals of seven minutes. Hence, seven minutes after Team 1 had begun, Team 2, consisting of four graduate students, Donde Anderson, Erin Guidry, Amy Eastwood and Jacob Berlin, began assembling their culinary concoctions.

Notably, all four graduate students were chemists, which prompted the discussion of the

similarities and differences between chefs and chemists. Berlin commented jokingly, "being a chef probably gets you more ladies." Nevertheless, a similar creative spirit and cunning calculation was invoked to create the innovative pieces that Team 2 produced.

Their four dishes included dried Shitake mushrooms stuffed with beef and tofu, battered and fried, salmon topped with snow peas, red peppers and a mushroom oyster sauce, traditional Korean barbecue and another spicy version of the Korean barbecue. They all credited their cooking experience to the tradition of cooking for their research groups on Sundays.

Meanwhile, the only undergradu-

ate team, consisting of Kally Pan '04, Debbie Lee '04, Hermes Huang '04 and Veasna Sok '04, figured that since they only had 40 minutes to cook, the deep fryer would be their main weapon. Armed with home recipes and their imaginations, the group came up with "Spanish" mushrooms with deep fried crab-stuffed mushrooms, fried seafood mushroom dumplings and "sugar mushroom surprise"—mushrooms filled with tapioca taro mix.

Kally Pan explained that he had come up with the idea of the "Spanish" mushroom during Spanish class and hence, the name. Both Huang and Pan cited their need and love for eating as their incentive to cook and Pan went as far as to say, "I experience sexual pleasure when I cook."

Lastly, Team 4, last year's defending champions, consisted of graduate students Adeline Seah and Rebecca Schulmann, postdoctoral scholar Shanti Rao and Professor Hideo Mabuchi. Most of the team is from Prufrock House, which comes together every week, as an "eating club," as Shanti Rao put it, "to feast on the culinary delights prepared by a selected group of cooks."

This year, Team 4 held nothing back, preparing pan-seared scallops with lobster mushrooms and served with golden beets, a soup with Daikon radish and wood-ear mushroom, flavored with parsley roots and leeks, shrimp with bacon and morels in a cream sauce paired with mussels with Enoch mushrooms and black bean sauce garnished

with mango salsa.

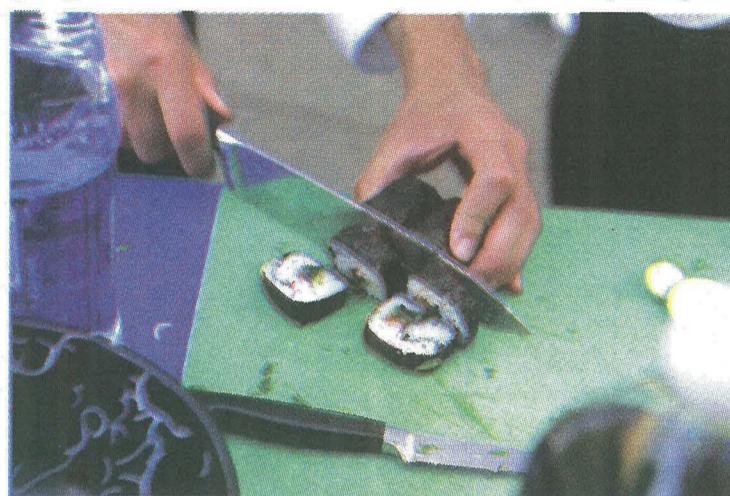
They also prepared three types of salads: fresh yellow chanterelle with fresh sweet corn and butter, Shitake mushrooms and Fava beans in a honey ginger soy sauce and flash-fried oyster mushrooms with asparagus and red bell peppers.

According to Rao, a self-proclaimed "food snob," the group spent about \$130 on all-fresh ingredients, but only used about \$100 worth of food. Rao's strategy was to buy every kind of mushroom that Whole Foods Supermarket at the corner of Rosemead and Foothill had to offer and work around them.

When it finally came time for the judges to make their decisions, brows furrowed and lips were licked as the judges tried to rank the earlier dishes they had sampled. After some deliberation, the judges announced their winners: Team 3 won the Most Creative title, while Team 4 kept their Best Overall title. Mannion's team skipped out on the judging, choosing to take comments only.

Team 4 was also last year's winner, dazzling the cucumber-themed event with their creative "Bamboo Forest" dish of sugar-lined cucumber cups soaked in lemon-flavored soup and applauded for their "simmerish" flair.

After this year's event, spectators were allowed to partake of the leftovers and the extra dishes that Mannion's team had prepared especially for them. Hopefully, this event will become an annual tradition of friendly competition and good food to celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage week.



P. Dormiani/The California Tech  
Among some of the wares cooked up at this year's Asian Pacific Student Union's Iron Chef Competition was Norimaki sushi. Defending champion "Team 4" won this year's Best Overall title with its eclectic mushroom dish.

## Friday Rally Draws Groundswell Of Support for Dismissed ISP Director

By JANET ZHOU

Speaking from their hearts, over a dozen students, alumni, and postdocs voiced their opinions at a rally last Friday in support of Parandeh Kia, who was recently relieved of her dual positions as director of International Student Programs and associate dean of Graduate Studies as part of a continuing administrative restructuring.

The rally, held in front of the Red Door during the noon lunch hour, attracted an estimated 200 to 250 people. "We were quite pleased with the number of people who turned up, especially since we had only advertised through e-mail and by word of mouth," stated graduate student Daniel Wagenaar, one of the organizers of the event.

In a letter dated May 13 sent to students, Student Affairs Vice President Margo Marshak announced details of significant restructuring within the Student Affairs' administration, including the elimination of the office of Residence Life and the associate deanship of Graduate Students. As a result, Kia will no longer be a Caltech employee, effective at the end of May.

Postdoctoral scholar Melvin Leok gave the opening speech, summarizing the poignant sentiment of those present.

"Parandeh, and the ISP she has built up over the years, is one of the few things that puts a human touch to the administration, and prevents Caltech from being saddled with a faceless bureaucracy," he said. "While fiscal responsibility is essential to our continued survival, we should not sacrifice the very things that make Caltech unique."

But in response to the organizers' pointedly personal accounts, Marshak pointed back to ongoing financial concerns. "This has nothing to do with performance, but is entirely economically based," she said. "It's a real tribute to [Kia] how many students she's touched, how many students relied on her, how many students were vocal, but it

doesn't and can't change the institute's circumstances and the hard decisions we face."

Speakers meanwhile praised the impact Kia had on the lives of many students. "Parandeh was the strongest student advocate on campus and one of the most dedicated student affairs professionals we have ever met," said graduate student Sarah Heilshorn, speaking on behalf of Women in Engineering, Science and Technology.

Added Lisa Wang '04 on behalf of the Caltech C, "Parandeh has been the core of the Caltech international community for over 10 years."

One alumnus even made the trip down from San Jose to show his support for Kia at the rally. "It was important enough to take a day off work and drive down here," stated Hao Li '98. "[Kia] probably doesn't remember me because she's helped a lot of people, but I remember her."

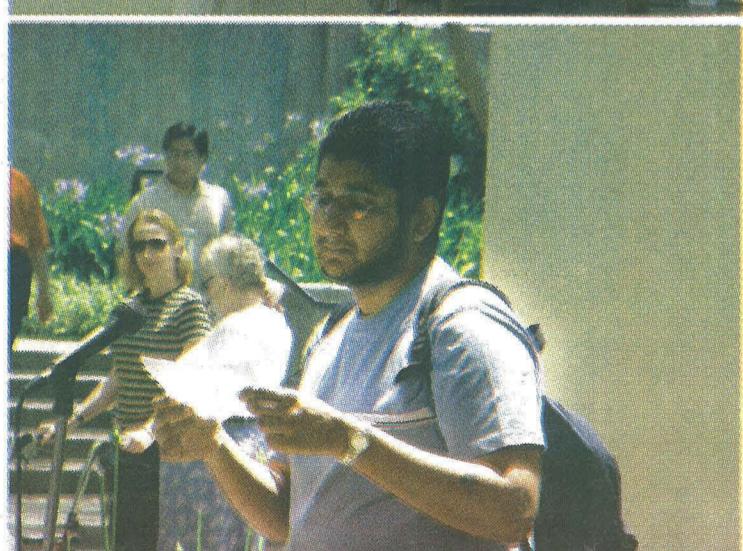
Marshak's plan is to merge the International Scholars Services (ISS) and International Student Programs (ISP) offices, which is how most college campuses operate. The ISP will remain in the Student Services building, but they will no longer report to Student Affairs but instead to ISS in Human Resources.

The ISS knows that they have to step up their role with students and scholars," affirmed Marshak.

"Marjory Gooding, the head of the ISS, worked with students for 10 years at the University of Colorado, so she is experienced in this field."

Many students and scholars are skeptical this setup will be as effective as the current one. Postdoctoral scholar Wei Ji Ma said, "I can easily tell you the difference in one line: for my paperwork I go to the ISS, for my happiness to the ISP."

As the rally went on, the crowd became more enthusiastic, responding with loud ovations. Ma's personal story was especially touching: "In one of my first days here, I was invited by one of my friends to join her at an ISP event. I was worried



D. Korta/The California Tech  
At Friday's rally, students and alumni gather to protest the layoff of Parandeh Kia, Director of International Student Programs.

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