



# The California Tech

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MARCH 17, 2003

## Just-elected House Presidents Bring Array of Ideas to Table

By JENNY IOFINOVA and ARTHI SRINIVASAN

During the last term, new presidents were elected in each of the seven houses. Each brings his or her own special qualifications and interests to the Interhouse Committee and each has exciting plans for his or her house for the upcoming year.

Natalia Deligne '04, the new Ricketts president, presents her main goal for the house as finding a solution to the ongoing problems between Ricketts and the administration. "Right now, we're trying to get a handle on the situation regarding the fine and the possibility of closing Ricketts down," she remarked. Deligne then added that maintaining communication with the administration to ensure that this doesn't happen again would be a crucial aspect of her presidency. Although Ricketts has no more protests planned, Deligne is pleased by the enthusiasm of her house. "Right now, we're pretty active, we're feeling kind of [robbed]."

Having served as food representative her freshman year and Ricketts vice president last year, Deligne is intent on continuing her role as student leader, stating that "it's my duty as a student leader to make sure our voices are heard."

Jessie Kneeland '04, the president of Dabney House, has ideas for several new activities apart from the standard house events. According to Kneeland, Dabney has many house offices named after alumni that most of the house has never met. Kneeland is planning to contact these alums and invite them back to the house so the current members can meet them and learn the stories behind the offices. She

also feels that the current debates about how rotation is handled should be addressed by the IHC. "There are pluses and minuses to the way things are, we should look at and respond to the changes people feel there need to be," she said about the issue.

Kneeland brings many qualifications to the job as president, having served as Dabney's Captain Planet her freshman year and as CRC co-chair last year. "I got to know a lot of administrators, which is convenient now that I'm in a position as president; I also have a lot of knowledge about the workings of ASCIT and the IHC."

Kristin Zortman '05, the new Lloyd president, describes the upcoming year as a busy one for Lloyd. The upcoming tasks include a lot of physical improvements within the house and focusing on social activities. "I want to make the house more of a house and have as many spirit activities as possible and get people involved," Zortman was quoted as saying.

Zortman also mentioned that Lloyd will most likely need to pick a new RA for the upcoming year, as their current ones are leaving Caltech. According to Zortman, the house will pick a new RA from candidates deemed qualified by Student Affairs.

Similar to Zortman, when asked about his plans for the upcoming year, Page's new president, Mike Lammers '04, described many house improvement projects, such as building a new deck. He also mentioned Page's idea of having a party third term, similar to Interhouse, but involving all the

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## Poised for Launch, SIRTF to Study Planetary Systems, Dusty Galaxies

By MATTHEW WALKER

On April 15, NASA's last great observatory will be launched from Cape Canaveral. The launch of the Space Infrared Telescope Facility, whose construction was managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, represents the culmination of 19 years of labor. The original team of astronomers was selected by NASA in 1984 to design and construct SIRTF. Studies were done for the project as early as the 1970s. Construction of SIRTF began in 1997. Said Tom Soifer, Director of the SIRTF Science Center (SSC), "It's getting real."

SIRTF contains an 85-centimeter telescope that will operate at five Kelvins to reduce the effects of the device's own thermal energy on its observations. This telescope will have the sensitivity of a 30-meter telescope based on Earth. SIRTF will be acquiring images of energy radiated in the wavelength range of three to 180 microns during its two-and-a-half-year mission.

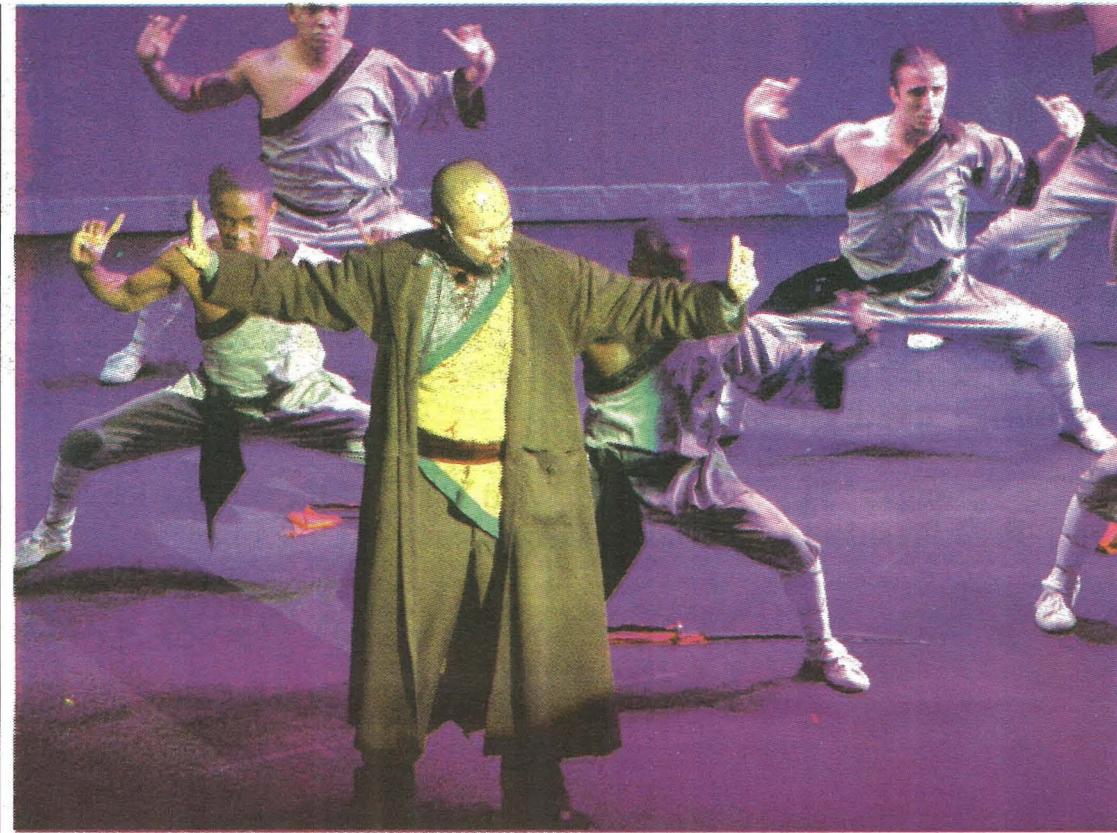
A major point of study for SIRTF will be about star formation and the development of planetary systems. Of particular interest are how stars evolve into planetary debris disks and how the central star causes the debris to condense into planets. "We know now that planets are common around nearby stars," said Dr. Soifer. The process of how the planets form is not well understood, which is why this study is a major

goal of SIRTF.

Dusty galaxies are another major object of interest for SIRTF. These galaxies have lots of stars, black holes and active galactic nuclei, but they are hidden from the optical region by interstellar dust. The energy, however, is reradiated in the infrared spectrum, which will be detected by SIRTF. The dusty, gas-rich galaxies seem to be very important to the development process of galaxies, so it will be an important achievement to understand the role of these galaxies in that process.

Besides these two goals, time on SIRTF will be available by the usual process of competing applications. After 90 days of calibration, SIRTF will be available for use for research. After that, the first six months will be split between Guaranteed Time Observations and the SIRTF Legacy Science Program. After that, the time will be split between these two groups and General Observer Investigations.

The Legacy program is six large projects that were selected by the SIRTF Science Center. These projects will be major observation projects, "with the goal of creating a substantial and coherent database of archived observations that can be utilized by subsequent SIRTF researchers," according to the SSC Web site. A few of the Legacy projects investigate the above-mentioned points. Dr. Soifer empha-



D. Korta/The California Tech  
The "Voice of the Dragon" performers blend martial arts, dance, theater and music to present a 17th century legend about the betrayal by a nun who allies with the Manchu to destroy her temple.

## Stunts, Music, Choreography Bring 'Voice of the Dragon' Show to Life

By O.J. CARLTON

The only thing that really bugged me about the Performing Arts Series' "Voice of the Dragon" performance the Friday before last was the complete lack of dragons: fire-breathing, wish-granting, princess-stealing, pot-smoking or otherwise. I never quite managed to catch the significance of the title, but then again I had the same problem with *Romeo & Juliet*, so

### News Analysis

you should take that with a grain of your condiment of choice.

What it did have, though, was a delightful blend of extraordinary stunts, skillful choreography, an exuberant narrator and a top-notch percussion-heavy orchestra. Whether these elements are enough to make up for the truant dragon is hard to say, but I'm definitely glad I went.

As it turns out, Voice of the Dragon was sufficiently westernized that I shouldn't have to be as careful about it as I was in reviewing the Lunar New Year event a month ago. In fact, this performance made enough lighthearted fun of itself that I probably should refrain from critiquing it, but I don't have that kind of will power.

The plot of the show seemed eerily familiar: a sect of kung-fu fighting monks living out their days in a mountain temple, guarding a secret scroll persecutes a sassy *femonk*—or *monkette*, whichever was politically correct in that dynasty—to the point of starting a war with her. I can barely remember the names of the characters and wouldn't be able to spell them anyway if I tried, so that's about as much plot as I'm going to go into.

If we've learned anything from Linkin Park, though, it's that in the end it doesn't even matter and nowhere does that proverb hold truer

than with the plot of this performance. The show was a celebration of action, power, grace, color, music and voice-overs; it had just enough actual tradition, in my estimation as an expert.

Anyway, the music was bright, tight and loud; all of which are fine by me. I could've used more brass instruments, but then again I said that about *Hamlet*. There was a time or two where the rhythm section combined with the elaborate choreography felt more than a little like *West Side Story*, but with more flips and kicks and stuff. The difference in a fight scene and a dance can be subtle and in some places I thought they really could have used some Batman-style onomatopoeias projected on the backdrop and timed perfectly with the crunch chords—that one was unintentional I swear.

Among the highlights of the performance was the introduction of the squad of five rogue fighters hand-chosen by the Cinderella character to recapture the temple or whatever. Each of these warriors had his own color, fighting style, element and animal in a scheme probably stolen from the Power Rangers. Fortunately, all of the voice acting was done by the capable and entertaining narrator in this case, so the warriors could concentrate on their acrobatics.

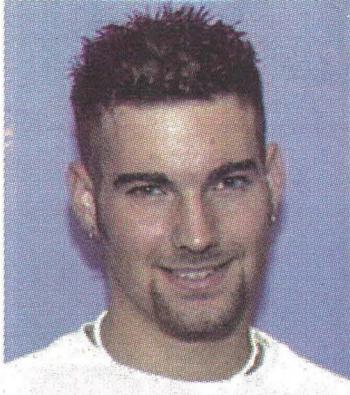
I'm afraid I haven't done the physical acting justice, though, and I'm in danger of turning a farce of a review into a review of a farce—okay, that one was deliberate. The performers spent the entire show tirelessly jumping, kicking, punching, swinging things, flipping every which way and otherwise performing superhuman contortions for the audience's enjoyment.

The temple itself, however, was like the AWOL dragon, left to the imagination of the audience. As I don't have much imagination left, I'm going to play the same trick on you and let you figure out what the temple looks like. Or you can just rent *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. Or *Fiddler on the Roof*. It had a temple, I think.

Since I've forgotten the ending of the play, I won't spoil it. I definitely remember a conflict being resolved triumphantly by one side or another and whichever side winning living happily ever after, if that helps.

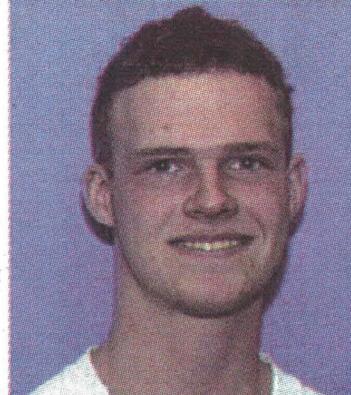


Courtesy of SIRTF  
After 30 years of planning, SIRTF will finally be launched on April 15 from Cape Canaveral.



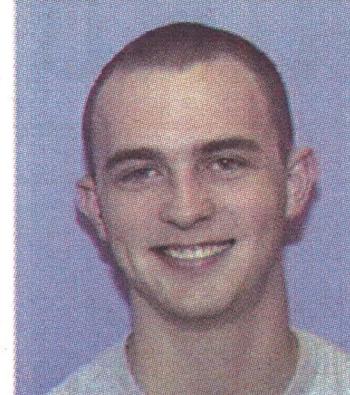
**"I really want to push for that [new third-term] party and to make it the way Interhouse used to be."**

Mike Lammers '04  
Page President



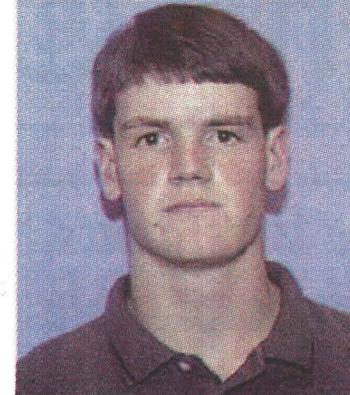
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Jason Schadewald '04  
Ruddock President



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Tom Vanderslice '04  
Fleming President



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Mike Davenport '04  
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Jessie Kneeland '04  
Dabney President

## MEDWOOD '04, WELGE '04 WIN BISHOP PRIZE

AWARD FINANCES STUDY ABROAD

### Plan Excursions To Achill Island, Moscow

By LAUREN STOLPER

Kirsten Welge '04 of Blacker House and Rachel Medwood '04 of Ricketts House have been designated as the 2003 Bishop Prize recipients.

Welge, whose option is history, will travel to Achill Island, in the Republic of Ireland, to do a six-week archaeological field camp. She will travel both before and after the program to sites in Ireland of importance to Irish medieval history. Welge intends to pursue a career in history.

Medwood, who has been studying Russian language and literature at Occidental College for several years, will travel to Moscow to study Russian with the American College Teachers of Russian program. She will also travel to a number of cities in the Russian Federation and especially to Kiev where her family originally comes from. Medwood has a double option in economics and computer science and is interested in international affairs.

In 2000, the Bishop family agreed to honor the memory of Amasa Bishop, who graduated from Caltech.

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## New Presidents Seek House, Student Unity, Resolution to Ricketts Tensions

*Continued from Page 1, Column 2*

other houses in the design and construction. "I really want to push for that party and to make it the way Interhouse used to be. Right now, things are too factionalized between the houses and to me, that's absurd," said Lammers.

Mike Davenport '04, the president of Blacker House, talked about Blacker's upcoming inter-house party third term as the next big event. However, his main goal during his presidency is to "make sure other people enjoy themselves and have relief from work and classes." Davenport seemed enthusiastic about the upcoming year and described the creativity of the people in his house and "the variety of really interesting ways people find to use their free time" as one of the things he loved about Blacker.

Fleming also has big plans to improve their house with extra money they have this year, according to new Fleming President Tom Vanderslice '04. He seemed happy with his house just as it was, noting that "we're a pretty solid group as a whole; we support each other a lot, but we also don't get out of Fleming a lot."

Jason Schadewald '04, the president of Ruddock, talked about the strong sense of community within Ruddock and commented that "everyone in the house got involved in building OPI." He noted the success of the Ruddock OPI construction, saying, "There's been some talk in the IHC about using the colosseum for different events."

Although Schadewald had no concrete plans for new Ruddock events, he noted, "I was very happy with the house when I ran for president and I'm very happy with it now."

One of the main roles of the house presidents is their role on the IHC. All of the house presidents, along with the IHC chairman, Jeremy Pitts '04, seem to agree that the IHC gets along extremely well this year. "When you get the seven of us and Jeremy together we're very laid-back and relaxed; we've had some fairly serious discussions but in general we're very comfortable," commented Davenport.

For his part, Pitts values his role as a liaison to the administration. "I'm going to take on issues that come up and try to get the administration to listen to us," he said, "and see our side of the issue on as many things as possible." He also acknowledged that while both the IHC and the BoD are working for the same basic goals, they will butt heads over issues, as both groups will see different sides of issues.

Lammers and others commented on the seriousness of the Ricketts situation and their trouble with the Caltech administration. Lammers

remarked that it was of particular concern to Page, since they typically have such a large fraction of the CRC cases. "The way [Ricketts] was treated is not the way disciplinary actions have been taken on this campus in the past; it's been very precedent-setting."

Zortman also sympathized with the problems that Ricketts is currently having, noting that last year, Lloyd had several alcohol policy violations and had to comply with strict guidelines set by the administration.

Other house presidents such as Schadewald also commented on improving communication between the administration and the students in general, saying, "I want to make all the political and administrative stuff have as much of a positive impact on my house members as

possible."

Another general concern among the house presidents was that many of their members tend to isolate themselves within their house. Davenport noted that "people tend to have a tendency not to extend themselves much beyond Blacker." Similarly, Lammers commented that there are groups of people in Page who "are very much against doing things with other houses," citing this as a big motivator for holding a truly inter-house party.

Whether such an Interhouse is indeed created or whether the plan will be shot down in yet another conflict with the administration, all signs point towards a year of fine leadership in each of the seven houses.



**"I want to make the house more of a house and have as many spirit activities as possible and get people involved."**

Kristen Zortman '05  
Lloyd President

## Ride Piques Girls' Science Interests

By MARK WHEELER

Sally Ride says women make up only 19 percent of the science, engineering and technology work force.

The roots for this, she says, run deep: the physicist and America's first female astronaut says that in the fourth grade, the number of girls and boys who like math and science is about the same. But by eighth grade, twice as many boys as girls show an interest in these subjects.

Ride has devoted a good portion of her life to improving the percentage of women in science.

One of her efforts, the Los Angeles Sally Ride Science Festival, will be held on Saturday, March 29, on the Caltech campus.

While all are welcome, the festival is directed at girls in grades five through eight, their parents and their educators.

This will be the second year the festival takes place at Caltech and is one of a number of such festivals that occur around the country. The festivals are designed to pique the interest of middle-school girls, a group that for a variety of reasons begins to drift from its natural interests in science and math.

The Los Angeles festival will feature keynote speeches by Sally Ride and *Los Angeles Times* science writer K.C. Cole; workshops will be led by local female scientists and engineers; there will be a street fair with booths, exhibits, food, music and a raffle. There is also a special adult track of workshops for parents and educators.

The children's workshops will include such topics as "Animal Friends: What a Vet Knows and Does"; "Medical Researchers:

From the Lab to the Patient"; "Making Friendly Robots"; "Exploring the Seas: Antarctica and Beyond"; "A Tumble through Time: How You Developed from a Single Cell"; and "The Mars 2003 Rover Mission: Exploring the Red Planet."

For adults, the workshop topics will be "Hands on Family Science"; "Nurturing Their Inquisitiveness: Exploring the Science Experience"; "The 'Trek' to Gender Equity: How Are We Doing?"; and "Facing the Music: College and Finances!"

Ride, a member of the Caltech Board of Trustees, became the first American woman to orbit Earth when she flew aboard the space shuttle Challenger in 1983. Her second flight was also aboard Challenger in 1984 and she was training for a third mission when the spaceship exploded shortly after liftoff in 1986.

Ride was a member of the team chosen to investigate the Challenger explosion and this month was also appointed a member of the NASA investigative board for the recent explosion of the space shuttle Columbia. She is the only person to have been named to both panels.

In 1987 Ride left the astronaut corps and is currently a professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego. She is also the founder, president and CEO of Imaginary Lines, Inc., which created the festival and is intended to provide support for the large numbers of girls and young women who are or might become, interested in science, math, engineering and technology. Programs include the Sally Ride Science Festivals; TOY Challenge, where teams of children

design and create a toy or game; and the Sally Ride Science Club, a national club created to keep middle school girls engaged in science adventures by connecting them to people, information and attitudes that will nurture their relationship with science at a critical time in their lives.

The Los Angeles Festival is presented in association with Caltech and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The event's sponsors include Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, the Aerospace Corporation and Caltech.

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# Dulces, Olykoeks And The Term's Sweet End

By TOM FLETCHER

## Club Survey is Up!

The club survey was posted on donut on Friday night. I apologize for any trouble anyone had initially with the survey not opening until 2010... I fixed that embarrassing glitch quickly, but again, sorry to all who tried to fill it out and could not.

The survey runs until the Thursday of the first week of third term. You have plenty of time to fill it out and it should only take ten minutes or so. I encourage you to fill it out, as it also includes some important questions about ASCIT Formal and donuts. Hopefully, we can get a good idea of how people feel about these issues from the survey.

Also, some of you have asked why your club is not on the list. If you just registered your club, it is a new club. It can't really have "active members" and when you apply for funding, you will have to submit a list of all the members. The club survey exists to inform us about existing clubs and see how many people are still interested in participating in them.

Lastly, if for no other reason, I encourage you to check out the club survey for the few buried Easter eggs. I got a little bored making it and made sure to add some humor here and there, mostly so I wouldn't fall asleep. Anyway, I think you get the point: please fill the survey out. Without it, your voice won't be heard.

## Whom did I meet with this week?

There was a faculty board meeting last Monday. For the most part, the only course changes were to graduate-level courses—BE 200, specifically—but at the end of the meeting, Galen presented his and Harris' new idea to cut down on BoC cases. They have prepared a collaboration cover sheet that attaches to a professor's syllabus and should make the collaboration policy for the course much clearer. In so doing, we should hopefully have fewer accidental BoC cases

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and less opinion amongst the faculty and the administration that the honor code is falling apart. As President, I'd like to thank both of them for their hard work on this. Anyway, most of the faculty at the meeting were very enthusiastic about this and were eager to try it out next term, especially Professor Lester; look for the cover sheet next term in Bi 1, frosh! If the collaboration cover sheet is a success, it will become a mandatory part of every syllabus next year.

I also had another meeting with Matthew Brewer a.k.a. Matt from Finance. He's helping Joanna and I get a grip on ASCIT's money: find out how much we have and spend, how much we earn on our endowment and how we do actually pay the Donut Man... Last week at midnight doughnuts, he simply handed me dozens of boxes of doughnuts and drove off!

The only other meeting as President I had this week was with Becky Oskin from the Pasadena Star-News. She was interested in hearing about the Ricketts controversy and how the students were coping with it. She talked to both Natalia Deligne, Ricketts President, and I. Her article is posted on-line here: <http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/Stories/0,1413,206%257E22097%257E1245310,00.html>. For anyone that's been reading the *Tech*, it's a lot of old news, but hey, you might still care.

Margo Marshak was out of the office this week. Therefore, I did not have my weekly meeting with her.

## Slouching Towards Baghdad

Last week's peace rally went off really well and the discussion it has spurred on campus has hopefully been informative to us all. This week, there are a number of letters responding to the pro-war position taken in an article last week. I know that I have an opinion on this issue, but I'll let the other students speak for me. One thing that I am sad about regarding this war, other than

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# From the Editor: Doughnut Debate Benefits, Drawbacks of Upholding ASCIT's Doughnut Tradition

By LEO STEIN

Lately, there has been a lot of debate about doughnuts in student life. When I talk about campus politics to friends at other prestigious universities, I am ashamed to tell them that doughnuts are considered a major campus issue at our school. At a school of this caliber, I would expect students to make a distinction between political issues and trivialities. However, doughnuts seem to be important enough to some students that they have recently become an issue. Therefore, I am taking this opportunity to try my hand at my first editorial.

## For Doughnuts

I tasted my first strawberry doughnut when I visited Caltech last year during prefresh weekend. Last term, when I had to wake up early on Fridays to trudge to Mead for chemistry lab, I would pick up

a doughnut as breakfast on the way. To end this term, ASCIT purchased \$645 worth of doughnuts for midnight doughnuts on the Olive Walk on Thursday. Clearly, doughnuts are a Caltech tradition if people perpetuate their distribution every year.

From what I have learned, a MOSH started the tradition about ten years ago. For some students, Friday morning doughnuts are the light at the end of a long night of sets. Traditions have a great role for students here because it connects them to past Techers and leaves a legacy for future Techers. Tradition is the driving force behind Dabney's murals, our tunnel art, Ditch Day, the Ricketts fire pot and ASCIT doughnuts. If Techers continue something more than twice, people are prone to believe it is a tradition. We are afraid of change and accepting of setting things in stone, despite the fact that we as scientists are supposed to be open-minded to change. For these reasons, continuing

ASCIT doughnuts seems perfectly plausible.

## Against Doughnuts

Although doughnuts are a popular tradition amongst Caltech students, as seen by the turnout this past Thursday for midnight doughnuts, doughnuts do not necessarily fall into ASCIT's ball park. The purpose of our student government, as I grasp it best, is to represent the students and act as a liaison between the students and administration. ASCIT is supposed to represent the voice of the students to serve us in the bureaucracy of administration. Where in this role do doughnuts come in? Why do we spend five thousand dollars a year on doughnuts for which most of us are not awake only once this past term for Friday morning doughnuts.

Doughnuts certainly taste delicious.

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## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Students struggle to devour and BoD members hustle to replenish the ever-shrinking doughnut supply last Thursday at the end of the term's midnight doughnut session. ASCIT Secretary Anna Sczaniecka, lower left, hands over an empty box of coveted strawberry doughnuts.

P. Dormiani/The California Tech

# The United Nations Needs to Unite

By MATTHEW WALKER

In recent weeks, it has become increasingly clear that France and Russia will use their veto in the Security Council to keep the United Nations from sanctioning war on Iraq. The United States has also made it clear that it will go to war with or without UN approval. The consequences for Iraq have been thoroughly examined. But the effects on the United Nations and other participants in this little episode of international one-upmanship have not been considered.

Imagine this scenario: France vetoes any resolution that sends the UN to war against Iraq. It's not too farfetched. America and the United Kingdom execute their battle plans on Iraq.

The effects on the United Nations are disastrous. The credibility has been lost as two of the UN's most powerful members disregard a decision. There are plenty of examples of nations ignoring UN resolutions, but none with the stature of the US or UK; think Israel and Turkey, for instance, the number-one and number-two ignorers of UN resolutions. Without respect, decisions made by the UN will quickly become meaningless. Any attempts to punish the US and UK would cause further damage, by alienating the two na-

tions.

It has been suggested that if France uses its veto, the US will seek to have France removed as a permanent member of the Security Council. This scenario is unlikely. First, the attempt would probably fail. Second, the attempt would open the door for action to get the US removed from the Security Council. The level of anti-American sentiment makes it a disturbingly real possibility. If successful, the UN would once again be in the position of alienating its most powerful member.

*"Without respect, decisions made by the UN will quickly become meaningless."*

The League of Nations was a worldwide alliance, similar to the UN, formed after World War I, based on Woodrow Wilson's 14 points. Though it was founded with good intentions, its lack of power caused its failure. This lack of power has generally been attributed to the United States' failure to join the League. Should the United States leave the United Nations, it

would be in danger of succumbing to a similar fate.

The situation can be avoided. The problem is that either the United States or France will have to back down. If the United States backs down, it loses the use of one of its major leverages, military strength. The threat of military would not be as effective anymore if there was any sort of international resistance. This hurts both US diplomacy and UN military threats.

If France backs down, they also lose international stature, for not sticking to their position. French diplomats, however, have already admitted that war is necessary, but that France doesn't think the time is right yet. It would not be such a big step to abstain from voting on the resolution sanctioning war against Iraq. With France abstaining, it would be much easier for the US to convince Russia to abstain as well.

One should remember that the current attitude of the US administration virtually eliminates the possibility that the US will back off. Though this stubbornness probably caused the current diplomatic crisis, it will be up to the French to prevent the failure of the United Nations. With France's reputation for being able to compromise with its opponents, it's likely that the crisis will be averted.

# 'Case for War' Flawed

By SWAROOP MISHRA

I am writing in response to the column by Mr. Olsen, Mr. Quinn and Mr. Wasem which advocates invading Iraq. The authors provide and unfortunately juxtapose two justifications for this war: the tyrannical reign of Saddam Hussein and the threat posed by purported Iraqi development of weapons of mass destruction. Under the authors' own reasoning, it is unclear why Iraq in particular should be targeted. Further, the column's conclusion is weak because it relies on questionable assumptions and statements.

The authors begin by comparing the proposed invasion to the "just wars" waged by Lincoln, Roosevelt and Churchill, but Iraq does not represent a "similar evil" as the authors claim.

In neither of those cases was the military conflict initiated by the United States. The authors skirt this issue by asserting that "war is justifiable if it will prevent the further death or suffering of peoples under a tyrannical regime." Apparently the authors believe that the United States is—or that the authors themselves are—responsible for determining when a regime is sufficiently tyrannical that it should be overthrown by a military invasion. The fact that the United States is a democracy with many freedoms

does not imply that the actions of its government are necessarily responsible or righteous. Supposing that we accept the authors' initial description of a justifiable war, the United States might be able to identify quite a few regimes at least as tyrannical as Iraq's. Burma, North Korea and Tibet are glaring examples. The people of Cuba, southern Sudan and Zimbabwe suffer under undemocratic and restrictive rule. Iran's democratically elected leaders are not the supreme authority. Do the authors propose that the U.S. continue its charitable invasions by toppling these regimes as well? Where does this campaign end?

Whether or not the authors prefer to limit their charitable invasions to Iraq, their column specifically advocates an invasion of Iraq. The authors claim it is a compelling and pressing target because of Saddam Hussein's history of aggression and continued development of weapons of mass destruction. To support their argument, the authors mention the discoveries of UN inspectors and "Colin Powell's speech to the UN Security Council." Perhaps the most egregious transgression publicly uncovered by the UN inspections is a large stockpile of AI

*Continued on Page 4, Column 1*

# Iraq Invasion 'Not Justified'

*Continued from Page 3, Column 5*

Samoud 2 missiles, which erratically exceed the permitted range; Iraq is now acceding to pressure to destroy the missiles.

As for Mr. Powell's speech, perhaps the authors fail to realize that independent observers as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency have refuted two of Mr. Powell's major claims. The FBI is currently investigating how the US government could have been fooled so easily. It would appear that in the rush to war, the US government is not placing sufficient importance on the legitimacy of its evidence or its claims.

The authors assert that Iraq's purported development of weapons of mass destruction threatens "the safety of millions around the world." The US government, easily the world's preeminent developer and possessor of weapons of mass destruction, is not asserting that there is an inherent risk in such weapons. Rather, the US government asserts that the world should trust comfortably in the American possession of such weapons, but the mere possibility that Saddam Hussein may acquire such weapons poses a threat so great that Iraq must be invaded.

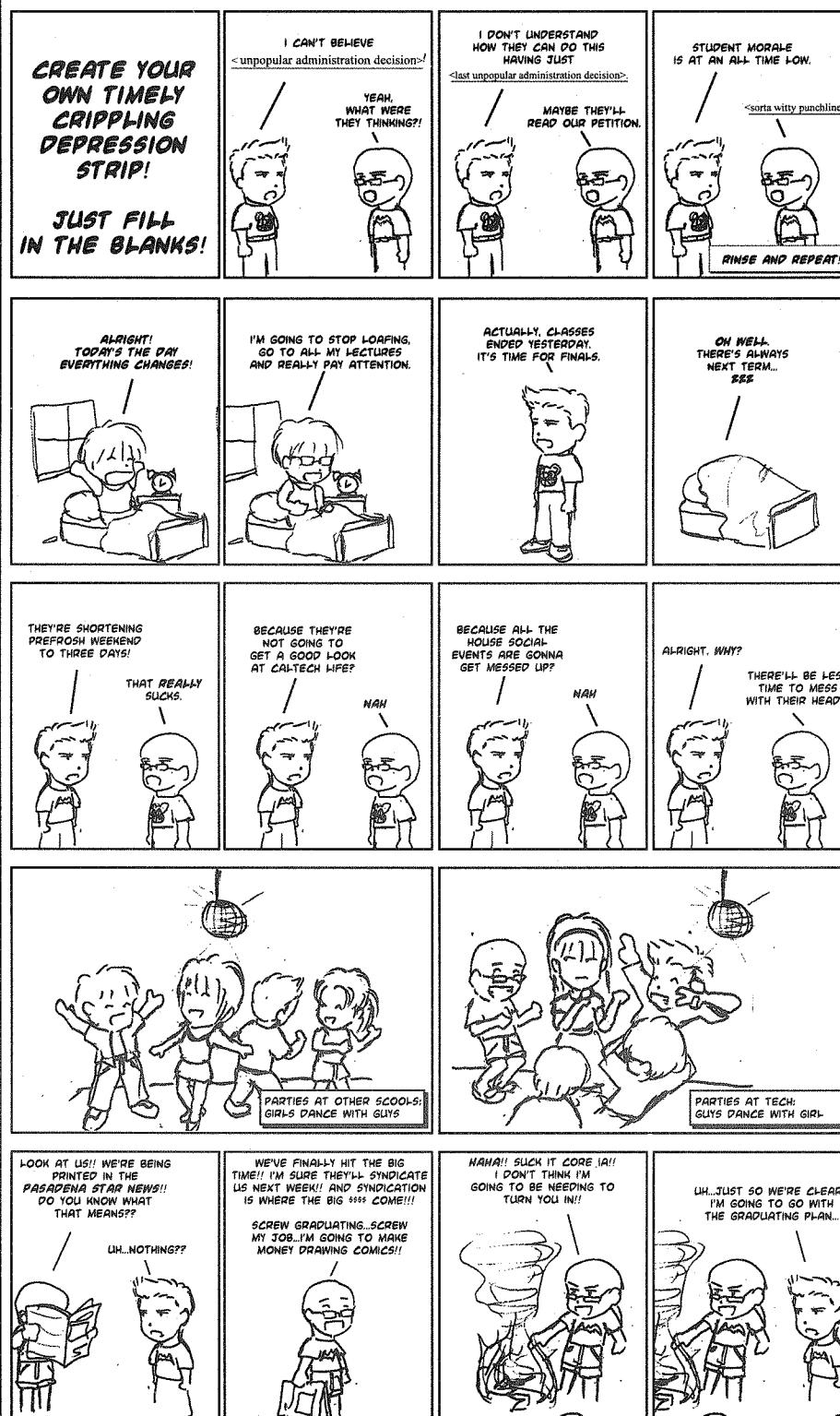
In accepting this idea and by implying that the US should overthrow tyrannical regimes which pose a threat to "the world," the authors go beyond their original assertion of justifiable war. Even if we accept this new argument, it is still not clear that Iraq should be our first target among such regimes. North Korea and Iran have more advanced weapons programs. Pakistan is a declared nuclear state, is ruled by a general who took power via coup and has delayed presidential elections until 2007 and is home to a strong movement of Islamic radicals. China is obviously a heavily armed nation with an undemocratic and oppressive government. The US never invaded Libya despite the many years in which Qaddafi ruled as a tyrant, sought to develop weapons programs and had clear ties to terrorists, refusing to extradite the Lockerbie bombing suspects. Why is there now such fervor for an invasion of Iraq?

Incredibly, Mr. Olsen, Mr. Quinn and Mr. Waseem go on to assume that ending "Hussein's power-hungry madness" would free the Iraqi "people from tyranny and bring the light of freedom and democracy to the Middle East." Many recent examples demonstrate that the fall of an oppressive regime does not necessarily lead to freedom and democracy, but instead to instability and perhaps further oppression. The authors state that the Cold War "freed millions of people from tyrannical regimes across the Iron Curtain." Unfortunately, this is not true for the millions of people in Georgia, in Kazakhstan and the neighboring central Asian republics or in Belarus. In these former Soviet states, one tyrannical regime has been replaced by others and millions there may actually long for the Soviet era. Mobutu Sese Seko's tyrannical regime in Zaire, which was supported by the US for decades, was followed by years of warfare, an equally undemocratic regime under Laurent Kabila and a collapsed state. The US-initiated overthrow of the Taliban has left Afghanistan similarly fractured; its purported leader Hamid Karzai is unable to exercise power across large parts of the country. This situation clearly demonstrates that even the United States cannot necessarily invade a nation, topple its government and install stable democratic rule; the well-in-

tentioned US intervention in Somalia provides yet another example. One might further argue that the history of the establishment of democratic states does not support the notion that democracy can necessarily be imposed upon removal of the existing regime by an external force.

We may all agree that democracy in Iraq is desirable, but an invasion to topple Hussein may well bring as much democracy to Iraq as the 1991 Gulf War brought to Kuwait. Instead, there are increasing signs that, as in the examples above, the power vacuum created by Hussein's fall would lead to severe instability in Iraq. There are numerous reports of Shiite militants currently moving into Iraq from Iran and of Kurdish militia forces establishing positions along Iraq's northern border to repel an expected incursion by the Turkish military. It seems comical to assign a great deal of predictability to the eventual outcome of an invasion of Iraq, let alone to believe that Hussein's regime would be replaced by "freedom and democracy."

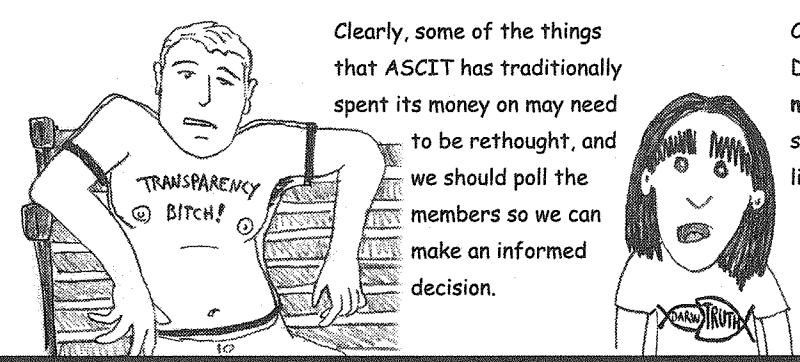
Under the authors' original assertion that "war is justifiable if it will prevent the further death or suffering of peoples under a tyrannical regime," an invasion of Iraq is not justified because there is no guarantee that further such death or suffering will be prevented. The authors write that attacking Iraq would constitute committing "ourselves to the defense of liberty" and would help to build "a just and enduring peace." A "peace" in which the United States unilaterally enforces its will and protects its interests through instigation of military conflict is not a just peace, it is simply tyranny on a different scale.



A SKETCHY view of the BoD meeting.

Week 1

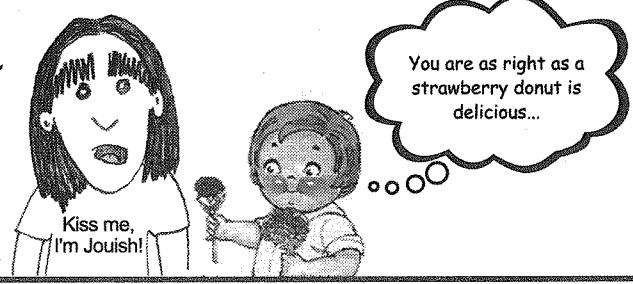
by alex sheive



Week 2

Clearly, now that Democracy has elected me, it would do well to shut the hell up and listen to what I think.

Did I mention that I was on the old BoD? In fact, despite most of the new BoD's members running on what could be termed a reform platform, everything the old BoD did was right. In fact, everything is right, and nothing should change. ASCIT should not evolve because it was intelligently designed by an infallible higher being.



Disclaimer: These are not actual quotes, they are gists, impressions gathered from myself and others at the BoD meetings. My personal opinion that Andrea is an insufferable pharisee clearly taints the journalistic accuracy of these comics. Also, despite whatever opinions you may have about Jeremy Pitts, please continue to enjoy Campbell's Soup.



## ASCIT Minutes

March 12th, 2003, 12:00 p.m., Olive Walk

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

Guests: Matt Brewer, Ryan Cable, André Mallié, Tom Mannion, Kylara Martin, Jean-Paul Revel, Gunnar Ristroph, Elizabeth Stameshkin, Parsa Dormiani Tabatabaei, & Others.

### Agenda

1. Call to Order  
2. Announcements: There will be Midnight Donuts on Thursday and Tom will look into getting milk from CDS. There will be 150 strawberry donuts. Also, a large survey will go up on [donut.caltech.edu](http://donut.caltech.edu) on Friday, March 14th that

will be taken down Friday, April 4th. It will ask students a variety of questions; including which ASCIT social events they prefer, whether they think ASCIT should keep holding its meetings on the Olive Walk and what their opinions on donuts are. The club survey questions are also part of this survey. Club interviews will take place Friday, April 4th from seven p.m. to 12 a.m. The budget meeting will take place following weekend. Vote: Should the BoD go to Capra? 5 in favor. Note: after the meeting, Tom Mannion said that Capra is not available the 2nd weekend of 3rd term. Alternative plans will have to be made.

### 3. Officer Reports/Weekly To-Do List

Tom still needs a new Excomm. Jeremy says that the IHC does not believe that each house needs to have a representative. Jeremy thinks that students are unaware of what the ASCIT Excomm does and hence may be reluctant to sign up. As a former ASCIT Excomm member, Liz thinks that the BoD should not appoint the Excomm, because it's the Excomm's job to make sure that the BoD follows the by-laws. On another note, over twenty students volunteered to serve on the Moore Committee. Right now there is no procedure for selecting students for such committees and applicants will have to be narrowed down somehow. Some students have also expressed concern about the manner in which students were appointed for the Dean of Education Committee. As a result, Kathryn Hsu and Matt Walker will continue to serve on the committee until interviews have been completed for these positions.

Galen is still swamped with BoC cases. He drafted the collaboration policy sheet and took it to the faculty board on Monday, March 10th. It was met with overwhelming approval. Among other things, the sheets will inform students about what texts and calculation aids that they are permitted to use on exams and homework sets. Galen says that the collaboration sheets will be handed out with the syllabi in undergraduate classes next term. Galen hopes the sheet will be implemented in all undergraduate and graduate classes 1st term of next year. Dean Revel thinks that it would be a good idea to hand out an additional copy with final exams in case students misplaced the first copy. Also, Janet is in the process of ordering the BoC laptop.

Anna will put new BoD info in the ASCIT display case and ask Jonathan Dama to update the BoD info online. These minutes take forever to write up...

Kathryn still needs an ARC Rep from Page. Joanna says that Page will probably choose an ARC Rep Thursday night. Kathryn is also hoping to increase student interest in the Student Faculty Conference by distributing two-page brochures in the student mailboxes.

Joanna will work with Tom Fletcher and Matt Brewer, "Matt from Finances," on Friday afternoon to craft the Memo of Understanding.

Kim needs to advertise Midnight Donuts and look into possible places for formal. There will be a BBQ during lunch on the Friday of Prefrosh Weekend. Tom Mannion says that students will get a discount. Joanna would also like to have the a cappella group perform at the BBQ. Most prefrosh are leaving really early on Saturday morning. Note: None of the Midnight Donut flyers that the BoD put up were offensive towards any of the student houses.

Jeremy wants to clarify: ASCIT is not giving money to CDS. On another note, Page and Ruddock have an interesting idea for an inter-house event: "American Gladiator"-style jousting in the Ruddock Coliseum.

Andrea needs to interview new publications editors. Tom adds that the administrators feel that there aren't enough copies of the Tech to go around. He thinks it would be a good idea to relocate some of the extra copies to people who want to read them.

Corinna says that clubs are currently registering. Registration will come down Friday, March 14th. Budget proposal forms will go up on Friday, March 14th and stay open until Tuesday, April 1. Ten copies of the form must be turned into the ASCIT mailbox in the SAC. Note: sign-ups for five minute time slots for club interviews on Friday, April 4th will be included on this form. All registered clubs must give a five-minute presentation in order to request funding.

4. Other: Chelsea Chang wants to take Professor Rutledge out to lunch. Vote: 7-0-1 Approved. Kylara Martin asks for funding for the figure skating team, which has a 75% chance of going to nationals. Nationals are going to take place in Denver over spring break and they need approximately \$500 dollars to cover travel expenses. Tom suggests looking into other possible sources for funding - Burger Continental may be willing to subsidize them. Should ASCIT allocate \$100 to the figure skating team if they make nationals? Vote: 7-0-1 Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Anna Sczaniecka  
ASCIT Secretary

## Youth Director Wanted!

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# Leave Doughnuts' Fate to Students

*Continued from Page 3, Column 5*

cious on a Friday morning after staying up for twenty hours without rest, but five thousand dollars can be better spent upon for the student body. After seeing how the Donut Man makes the strawberry doughnuts, I no longer want to put one in my body at eight in the morning. Oatmeal, bagels with lox or granola and fruit would be far more nutritious to our bodies than doughnuts after the torture we put our bodies through. ASCIT could buy 22,000 cups of food to fight hunger if we forewent doughnuts. For all of these reasons, doughnuts are not an issue that ASCIT needs to concern itself with. Rather, ASCIT should be focusing on student issues that will influence future students such as the length of prefrosh weekend or the preservation of the fire pot.

## The Debate

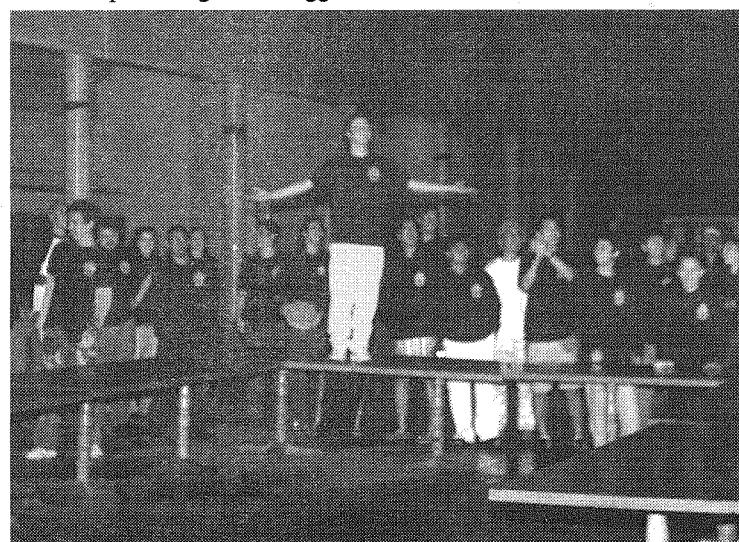
I believe the latest doughnut debate started with Tom Fletcher's election as ASCIT president. Tom suggested at his first BoD meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> that rather than driving to the Donut Man, ASCIT could invest in a closer donut supplier, Winchell's and also offer bagels in the morning. This suggestion was met with harsh criticism from Andrea Vasconcellos, the only member of this year's BoD who also served on the previous one. Students are very fearful of altering traditions. The debate likely would have not been expanded to the proportions we saw if some chance occurrences had not taken place. Specifically, Tom's first Friday morning doughnuts as president were met with displeasure. Tom delivered the doughnuts an hour early after staying up all night and consequently there were not many strawberry doughnuts remaining at eight when the regulars arrived. At the end of the term, ASCIT advertised midnight doughnuts around

campus and an independent party posted flyers saying "F— Ruddock" and proposing to eat all the strawberry doughnuts before members of Ruddock house could reach them. This action provoked Ruddock house to organize and demonstrate by waiting on the Olive Walk an hour in advance. In response, members of Page, Fleming and Ricketts, amongst others attacked the Ruddock members with water balloons. The issue of preserving the doughnut tradition has quickly escalated from a debate to an inter-house attack. The immature action of one independent party was met with the immature actions of many.

## The Past and Future

This is not the first time doughnuts have incited such disagreement. Last year, when Ted Jou "experimented" for a term without Friday morning doughnuts, several students protested enough to reverse his decision. Once again, students are protesting at the sugges-

tion of replacing doughnuts with a cheaper or healthier alternative. Should we sheepishly revert to our previous actions rather than independently proposing a new solution to the debate? As scientists, we can not allow ourselves to throw out a possible solution on a feeling. We cannot take only our personal feelings into consideration, but should consider the benefit to the entire student body. Therefore, the only scientific conclusion we can draw from this argument is that we must let the students as a whole decide upon the future of Friday morning doughnuts. If you think doughnuts should stay, you should vote on the latest ASCIT online poll and say so. If you have a better idea for ASCIT's money or just think that you are not deriving any benefit from ASCIT spending five thousand dollars on a few select doughnut eaters, vote online and say so. Either way, participate in the democratic process. It's the only way to have your views represented and that is the sole purpose of ASCIT.



P. Dorman/The California Tech  
Members of Ruddock House gather on the Olive Walk an hour in advance of Midnight Doughnuts to demonstrate against flyers put up proposing to eat all the strawberry doughnuts before Ruddock.

# Letters: Responses to Pro-war Article

## Iraq: Just the Facts

Dear editors,

I'm writing in response to the article in last week's Tech entitled "The Case for War: Why America Should Enter the Middle East." There are two assertions made in the article which are simply not true.

The authors state, "Iraq had UN weapons inspectors in the country from the end of the first Gulf War until 1998, when Hussein forcibly expelled them." Saddam Hussein never expelled the weapons inspectors. Richard Butler, then head of UNSCOM, withdrew the weapons inspectors at the request of President Clinton on the eve of Clinton's 1998 bombardment of Iraq. As reported in October 8, 2002 issue of *The Manchester Guardian*:

"On October 30, 1998, the US rejected a UN proposal by again refusing to lift the oil embargo if Iraq disarmed. On the following day, the Iraqi government announced that it would cease to cooperate with the inspectors. In fact it permitted them to continue working and over the next six weeks they completed around 300 operations. On December 14, Richard Butler, the head of the inspection team, published a curiously contradictory report. The body of the report recorded that over the past month "the majority of the inspections of facilities and sites under the ongoing monitoring system were carried out with Iraq's cooperation," but his well-publicized conclusion was that "no progress" had been made. Russia and China accused Butler of bias.

On December 15th, the US ambassador to the UN warned him that his team should leave Iraq for its own safety. Butler pulled out and

on the following day the US started bombing Iraq."

By refusing to consider lifting crippling sanctions, even in the event of full disarmament, the United States removed the main incentive for Iraq to cooperate with inspectors. In addition, Iraq alleged that the United States was using its inspectors for illegal intelligence gathering. This allegation was supported by reports in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and others. See, for example, "U.S. Spied On Iraqi Military Via U.N." in *The Washington Post* of March 2, 1999. It is hard to see why any nation would continue to cooperate with inspectors under these circumstances.

The authors also state that "during the time while the inspectors were in Iraq, his stockpiles of weapons remained nearly undiminished." This, too, is false. Scott Ritter, former head of UN inspectors, said during his talk at Caltech this fall that by the end of the inspections in 1998, about 90 to 95% of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction had been verifiably destroyed. He said that Iraq was "qualitatively eliminated" as a threat. In addition, Ritter noted that this disarmament had occurred without complete Iraqi cooperation and had high expectations that this success could be repeated or improved upon with a second inspections regime. There was not perfect disarmament, but to claim that Iraq's stockpiles were "undiminished" is misleading and wrong.

I'm sure most people are familiar with the arguments against war: they have been stated quite eloquently on the streets, in print and on the web. I'm also familiar with the arguments for war, as elaborated by the President and others on a daily basis. I'm perfectly willing to

allow for differences of opinion. However, arguments based on false assertions do their cause nothing but harm.

Sincerely,

M. Ollendorfer '05

## Three Problems in 'Case'

Dear editors,

My comments on "The Case for War: Why America Should Enter the Middle East" by Olsen, Quinn and Wasem:

I hope to draw the authors' attention to the following facts pertaining to three of their statements:

First, to "save a nation of 24 million people and bring the light of freedom and democracy to the Middle East" does not follow automatically from "challenging Hussein." In particular, no challenge should be carried out without a plan to achieve the final goal.

Second, back in 1998, the inspec-

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# War, Peace, Doughnuts And Dulce Et Decorum Est

*Continued from Page 3, Column 2*

the void of debate, is the absence of a thoughtful response from the humanities-folk of this country. I guess there's no improving on "Blowing in the Wind" but I still hope that our artists will help us come to terms with the reality we are approaching. Along those lines, I've dug up an excerpt from an old poem I read as a senior in high school. Maybe Mr. Hagar was clairvoyant in making me read this poem or he just picked from our poetry book, but either way, I think it'll make you feel something:

An excerpt from *Dulce et Decorum Est* by Wilfred Owen

Gas! Gas! Quick, boys! An ecstasy of fumbling,

Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time;

But someone still was yelling out and stumbling,

And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime ...

Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light,

As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams, before my helpless sight,

He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in sonic smothering dreams you too could pace

Behind the wagon that we flung him in,

And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,

His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;

If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood

Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,

Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud

Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,-

My friend, you would not talk with such high zest

To children ardent for some desperate glory,

The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est  
Pro patria mori.

If you caught it, the title is a reference to "Things Fall Apart" by William Yeats, both the inspiration for a classic novel by Chinua Achebe and an excellent poem in its own right. Seeing as to how spring break is coming up, perhaps we could all benefit from a little poetry.

## Your Moment of Zen

To honor midnight donuts, I thought I'd throw out this little gem from the OED to close out on a laugh. It's the first citation of the word "doughnut" ever appearing in written English. The next citation is actually in 1847 from Thoreau, in regard to a window that resembled a donut in size and opacity... pretty ridiculous. Still, the first citation, from Washington Irving is even better...

1809 W. IRVING Knickerb. (1861) 90 An enormous dish of balls of sweetened dough, fried in hog's fat and called doughnuts or olykoeks.

Olykoeks? olykoek.caltech.edu? Midnight Olykoeks? Strawberry Olykoeks? It's a good thing the country wised up and didn't listen to those upstate New Yorkers... Homer just wouldn't have been as funny lustily yearning for an olykoek.

Have a great spring break Caltech,

Tom Fletcher

P.S.: Thank <chosen deity or other receptacle for your spoken wishes> second term is almost over. It's always the worst... looking forward to pre-frosh weekend!

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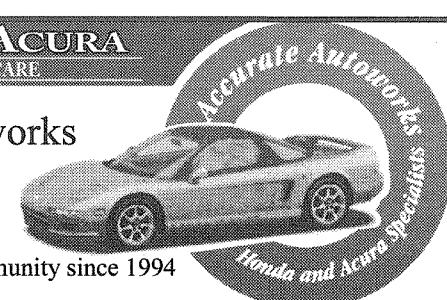
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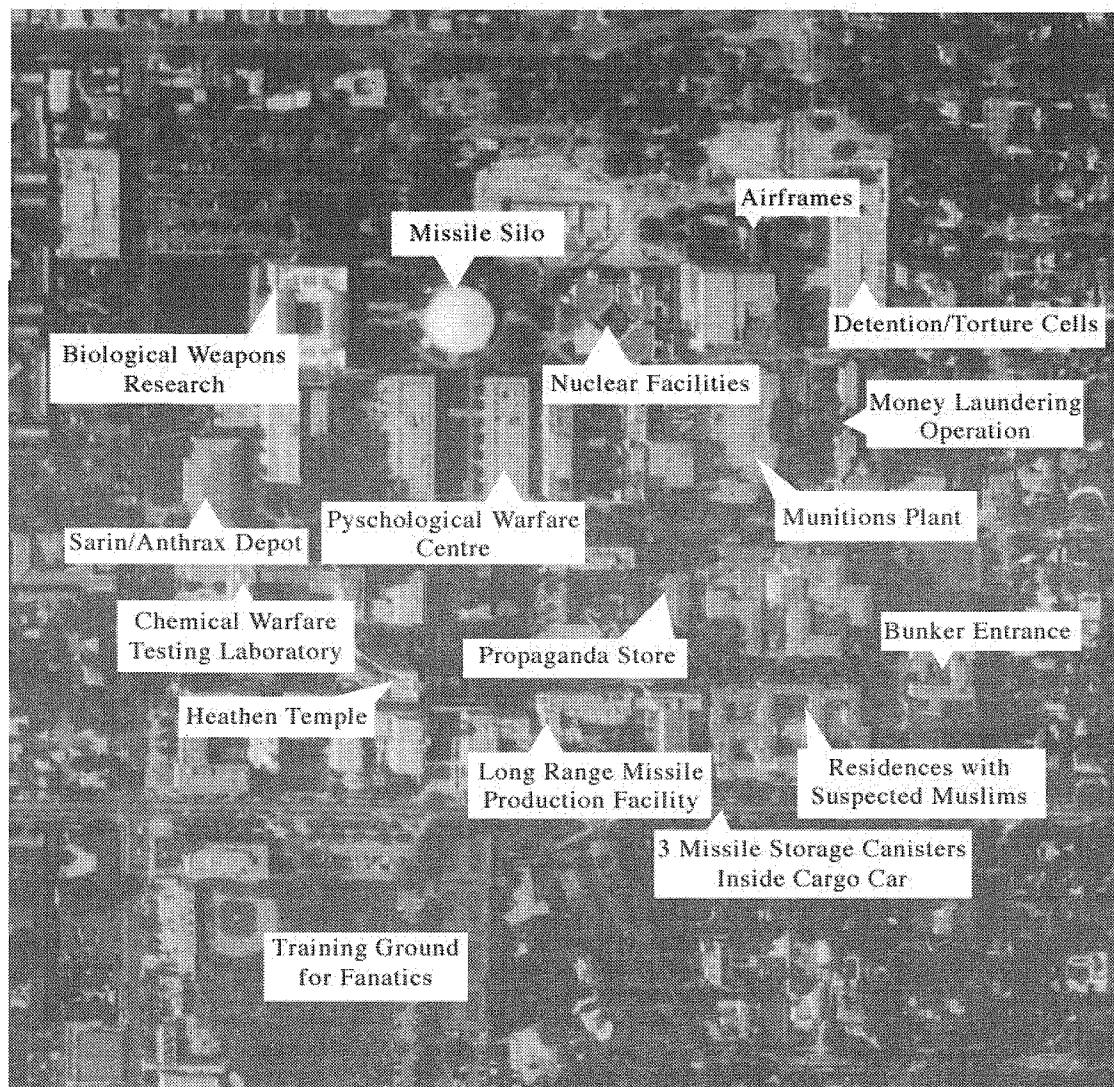
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## SPY SATELLITES UNCOVER MORE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION



Courtesy of C. Powell  
This just in! This Tech top-secret document reveals information about a newly uncovered scientific hotbed. The U.S. Government calls this a "self-contained community, with unharvested knowledge and danger." Unnamed sources reveal the photo was taken with a Web camera from under the bed of pundit Libin Zhang '05. It remains to be seen how the world community and the United Nations will respond.

## Revel: I Do Not Do Crack Cocaine

By LIBIN ZHANG

I viewed with curiosity the recent Ricketts experiment with homelessness. The Scurves were implying that the Administration's threat to disband Ricketts would force them onto the streets, but I assure everyone that that scenario will not be the case. They will simply be moved into the other houses, where a number of rooms are currently at less than maximum capacity, while we rent out the Ricketts living space to fill the budget deficit. The Scurves were so convincing as the homeless, much more so than the Darb 'homeless' during their infamous Ruddock visit, that for a moment there I thought I should donate a few quarters. However, like real homeless people, they would probably spend the money to consume alcohol by buying Listerine from the convenience store, so I hesitated.

Just the other day, I was struck by how our two-bit quarter coins have had so many design changes over the years ever since the American War of Independence, culminating

in the current 50 state quarters program; Just the other day, I found an Illinois quarter with the picture of Lincoln. Using the powers of the World Wide Web, I learned that originally the Mexican dollars were divided into eight slices for small change, or eight "bits." Each bit would be worth 12.5 cents, so two bits = 25 cents. Very clever, *n'est ce pas?* Before the current Washington design, quarter dollars had a picture of a standing female Liberty on the obverse—the "heads" side, as opposed to the "tails" side. The original 1916 Standing Liberty design featured very prominent, how you say it, knockers. Unfortunately, a design change a year later covered those supple and delectable breasts.

Seriously though, homelessness is an important issue in America. With our current economic downturn, more and more people are being evicted from their homes. I've heard people speculate that a lot of homeless people consume illicit drugs. I wonder where the homeless get the money for that from? I used to think academia is higher

paying than panhandling, but maybe I've been wrong all along. My dean's salary can barely afford any crack cocaine of a reasonable quality. Researching biological gap junctions is interesting and rewarding, but it is not very lucrative and does not offer many opportunities for illegal drug manufacturing. I should have been a chemist starting in my German-occupied Strasbourg days.

Ah, my younger years, when men were men, sheep were sheep and English-speaking cretins did not try to boss the francophone world. Wars were fought with chivalry and sportsmanship, not

silly weapons of mass destruction. The dying age of romanticism is embodied in the British spy Robert Baden-Powell who operated around the turn of the century; I mean 1900, mind you, not 2000. One assignment was to determine the strength of some Austrian fortifications; Wearing thick spectacles and carrying a butterfly net, he pretended to be a befuddled lepidopterist seeking rare butterfly specimens. In this pose, he wandered close to defense positions and scurried about waving his net wildly, while the guards looked on in amusement. In my spare time, I used to practice what moves he might have made to act the most silly.

Baden-Powell quickly drew talented sketches of the fortifications, which were undetected by Austrian censors since he cleverly concealed the drawings inside larger sketches of butterflies. His espionage work became very important to British intelligence. Later, Robert Baden-Powell founded the Boy Scouts, the American branches of which are valiant defenders of the free world against sin. Sadly, the glorious old days have vanished, while those of us who still remember are looked upon as babbling old men.

I recognize a lot of myself in Lord Baden-Powell. We are both cognoscenti of butterflies, eccentrics in a foreign land. He worked around foreign soldiers, while I work around foreign scientists, for the greater good of the motherland. While my watercolours are unexceptional and cannot hide as much information as Baden-Powell's sketches, I always remember what my grade school teacher used to say: "*la pratique rend parfait.*" That means "practice makes perfect," by the way, a piece of useful advice that transcends generations.

*A bientôt!*

## Opposition to War on Iraq Mysteriously Disappearing

By MATTHEW WALKER

In a wave of national solidarity this week, hundreds of classic product names have been changed, following the House of Representatives' lead, having changed the word French to Freedom in French Fries and French Toast. In retribution for lack of support for the Iraq war effort, references to various nations are being removed throughout the country. Caviar was renamed Security Fish Eggs. Vodka has become Vision of Safety Drink. Pacific dumpling is the new name for Chinese won tons. Reminiscent of World War II, the terms Salisbury Steak and Liberty Cabbage, for hamburger and sauerkraut, respectively, have come back into popularity. Across the country, tags reading "Made in China" were replaced with "Made across the Ocean in Freedom Sweat Shops."

The Bush Administration hopes that these measures will help persuade dissenting nations that the United States means business on going to war with Iraq. Said Congressman Bob Ney (R-Ohio), "This action today is a small but symbolic effort to show the strong displeasure of many on Capitol Hill with the actions of our so-called ally, France."

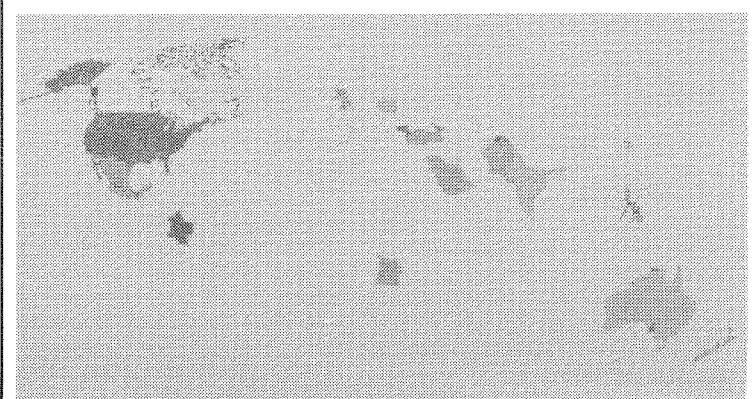
In response, French President Jacques Chirac called for "all true Frenchmen to forego patronizing the warmongering American theme park known as 'Disneyland Paris'" to which Disney replied, "French people were coming here?"

Bush, following up on the success of Freedom Fries, has changed the fuel formerly known as oil to Worthless, smelly, black liquid. A Bush spokesperson said, "We just

want to reiterate that oil-I mean, the worthless, smelly, black liquid—plays no role in our decision to pursue war with Iraq." In other news, OPEC changed its name to Producers of American Life Serum (PALS), reflecting the friendly nature of current PALS-American relations.

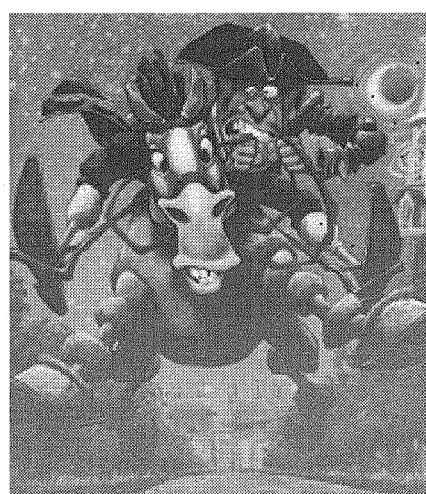
On a related note, Rand McNally released the newest version of its atlas. Sympathizing with national sentiments, China, France, Germany and Russia, have been replaced by The Sea of Security. Another change in the atlas was that the states of Washington, Oregon, California, New Mexico, Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Maine, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland all seemed to be swallowed by large lakes. A simultaneous Electoral College press release announced just afterwards that the electoral votes would be redistributed among the states not affected by the so-called "terrible flooding mishap."

Unfortunately, all the recent redesignations have led to at least one death. A 64-year-old man was beaten to death yesterday in Texas after trying to order "French" fries at his local McDonalds. Gregory Jameson apparently walked in to the Paris, Texas McDonald's and ordered a medium "French" fries. Three young men, whose names were not available, took offense and when Mr. Jameson refused to apologize, they dragged him outside and beat him. Police have the suspects in custody, with assault and battery charges pending.



Courtesy of R. McNally  
Responding to American sentiments, the newest version of Rand McNally's map has China, France, Germany and Russia replaced by the Sea of Security.

## "The Prefrosh Are Coming!!!"



April 24-26, 2003

If you are interested in volunteering for Prefrosh Weekend please contact your house representative.

## So. Cal. Offers Range of Summer Fun

By VI TRAN

Come Friday, June 13, the only thing you'll want to do is sleep. But if you're SURFing or working on campus or you're just hanging around, you'll find that you—gasp!—Actually have free time! What to do with all this free time? Well, don't waste it in front of your computer playing Generals! Take advantage of the beautiful California weather and get outside!

Of course, since Pasadena gets pretty hot in the summer, you'll want to hit the beach. The nearest beaches are 30 to 45 minutes away in Manhattan Beach, just south of the Los Angeles International Airport. Manhattan State Beach offers pretty much everything you could want in a beach: volleyball nets, surfing, outdoor showers, a boardwalk, lifeguards, restaurants and even public transportation.

Located farther south, Ranchos Palos Verdes hosts the Abalone Cove Ecological Reserve complete

with tide pools and the Point Vincente Interpretive Center, an ideal spot for whale-watching.

To get the full effect of Southern California and its legendary beaches, go further north to Santa Monica Beach, a popular film location, with its very own amusement park. An added bonus, Santa Monica also features the Third Street Promenade, one of the most famous shopping districts in Los Angeles County.

If you're looking for a quieter beach, Malibu Beach has no beach side shops or entertainers, but you'll be dazzled all the same by the rows of gorgeous beachfront celebrity homes.

If you're willing to make the drive, Long Beach is the southernmost of all the Los Angeles beaches, but is the largest, featuring trips to nearby Catalina Island and the legendary Queen Mary. Long Beach Aquarium is a great educational spot for children of all ages, featuring short films and

plenty of hands-on exhibits.

If you need a break from the sun, there is a plethora of movies slated for release in the summer months. For the action-loving bad boys, "2 Fast 2 Furious" will come out in early June, unfortunately without the star of its prequel, "The Fast and Furious," Vin Diesel.

Meanwhile, another action-packed sequel, "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle," also returns with most of its original cast of good girls, Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz and Lucy Liu, but missing Bill Murray as the original mastermind, Charlie.

Another highly anticipated film, "The Hulk," will be released in early summer, starring Eric Bana as the scientist Bruce Banner, who after being pelted with gamma rays, transforms into The Incredible Hulk when angered.

And if you want your heartstrings plucked, try seeing "Northfork," the story of a local priest who takes care of a dying nine-year-old orphan whose only wish is to be adopted.

Another movie, "Whale Rider," promises to captivate its audience with stunning scenery, as the 11-year-old Pai sets out to prove herself worthy of being the new chief of a New Zealand tribe.

Also, keep in mind that the Caltech Y offers discounted movie tickets to the members of the Caltech community.

If all else fails, do what everyone else eventually does: go to Disneyland! Disneyland is only about 30 minutes away and now also features California Adventure and Downtown Disney. Although you just can't pass up a ride in the Teacups, the "Happiest Place on Earth" does now offer other enticing options, such as the House of Blues, the ESPN Zone, an AMC Theatre and plenty of shops.

If you're wanting more heart-pounding, stomach-flipping, roller coaster action and fewer cartoon characters, try Magic Mountain, located about 45 minutes away in sunny Valencia. If you'd rather spend the day playing in water instead of waiting in lines in the hot

## Teams Post More Losses

By REGER BRENTON

### Men's Baseball

Caltech (1-12) .....	4
OCCIDENTAL .....	15
Caltech .....	0
OCCIDENTAL .....	14
Caltech .....	2
OCCIDENTAL .....	10

### Men's Tennis

Caltech (6-4) .....	3
OCCIDENTAL .....	4
Caltech .....	0
SCHREINER .....	7

### Women's Tennis

Caltech (0-11) .....	0
OCCIDENTAL .....	9
Caltech .....	2
SCHREINER .....	7

## PER BISHOP'S LEGACY, PRIZE FUNDS TRAVEL

Continued from Page 2, Column 1

with his B.S. in physics in 1943. By establishing the Amasa Bishop Summer Study Abroad prize, he offers today's students an exciting opportunity for summer study abroad.

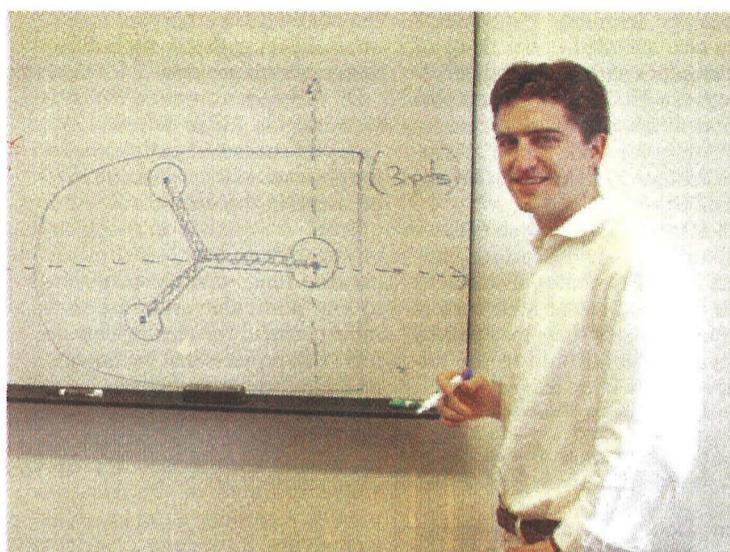
Bishop served as Chief of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Controlled Thermonuclear Branch and went on to become the Atomic Energy's European Scientific representative. Due to Bishop's understanding of the need for scientists and engineers to gain exposure to international issues and cultures, the Bishop family generously agreed to fund two prizes in the amount of \$6,000 each to allow two juniors to study abroad during the summer.

The prize covers round trip air fare and all tuition fees and living expenses up to \$6,000. Within this budget, applicants can request funds for travel in the country of their study program or to countries in the same general region. Travel can be done before or after the study program which has to be a minimum of six weeks long.



Courtesy of the World Wide Web  
Tamara Becher '04 is this week's athlete of the week.

Continued on Page 8, Column 2



ACM 95 Professor Niles Pierce is this year's Feynman Prize winner for excellent teaching.

## With 'Dedication, Charisma,' Pierce Wins Feynman Prize

By IRAM PARVEEN-BILAL

This year's Feynman Prize winner is Applied Math Professor Niles Pierce, a clear favorite among undergraduates and graduates for teaching the first term and a half of ACM 95.

Having just received his Ph.D. in 1997, Dr. Pierce is below the average age of the faculty at Caltech. "On the very first day, I remember standing outside the lecture hall surrounded by students waiting for the previous class to let out," he reminisced. "Amidst the din of conversation, I gradually realized that I had not been identified as the professor. My only previous teaching experience was two small graduate courses so I stood there anonymously, overdosing on adrenaline and thinking 'I guess this is the major leagues.'"

Teaching such a notoriously tough course as ACM 95, however, Dr. Pierce had to fine-tune his skills as an instructor to reach the majority of his students. "95 has a reputation as a tough course—and not just with students!" he said. "It took some convincing to get me to teach it the first time because I'd heard a lot of stories about how much it takes out of the professor. As it turns out, though, a big class can be a lot of fun. Straight off I discovered that writing on nine sliding chalk boards in the correct order is not as easy as it might look when 200 people are supervising!"

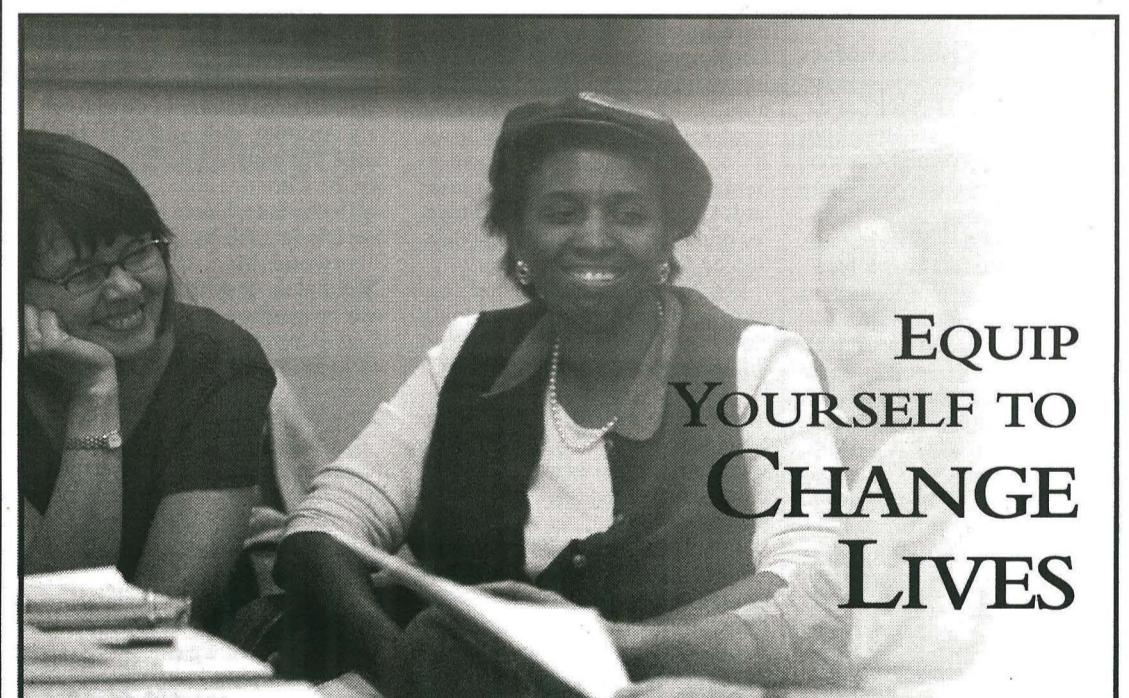
The award cited Dr. Pierce's "enthusiasm, dedication and charisma in teaching both undergraduates and graduates the foundations of applied mathematics through ACM 95. Professor Pierce's lectures are carefully organized and presented

in a manner that emphasizes both the how and the why of the problem. He teaches without oversimplifying and without intimidating, making the material accessible to the diverse group of students. He possesses an uncanny ability to anticipate the frustrations and challenges of the students and has been able to hold the students' attention and attendance, throughout the quarter."

Dr. Pierce has been teaching the course's first half for the past two years. "Niles' interactive teaching style and smashing good looks make it a pleasure to attend class!" exclaimed student William Vandewater '05. A few of his former students also nominated him for the ASCIT best teaching award, which he received in 2002.

The Feynman Prize serves as a motivator to inspire professors to prepare engaging classes. All professorial faculties are eligible. This prize is made possible by a gift of endowment by lone and Robert E. Paradise, with additional contributions from Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hurt, in appreciation of Richard Feynman's contributions to excellent teaching. It is a cash award of \$3,500, matched by an equivalent raise in the annual salary of the awardee.

The selection of the recipient is made by a committee appointed by the provost. The committee chair and members are rotated frequently to reflect all segments of the Institute and the committee consists of three professorial faculty and one representative each from the undergraduate student body and the graduate student body.



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# Six Caltech Professors Awarded Sloan Fellows

By TAMMY MA

Six Caltech professors were recently selected to be Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellows for 2003.

117 young scientists and economists from 50 different colleges and universities in the United States and Canada were selected to receive a Sloan Research Fellowship. The Sloan Fellows are described as faculty members engaged in research at the frontiers of chemistry, computational and evolutionary molecular biology, computer science, economics, mathematics, neuroscience and physics.

From Caltech, there were four recipients involved in chemistry research. They are Paul David Asimow, Assistant Professor of Geology and Geochemistry; Linda C. Hsieh-Wilson, Assistant Professor of Chemistry; Jonas C. Peters, Assistant Professor of Chemistry; and Brian M. Stoltz, Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Fellowships were also awarded in the fields of mathematics and neuroscience, respectively, to Danny Calegari, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Athanassios G. Siapas, Associate Professor of Computation and Neural Systems.

These six Sloan Research Fellows were selected from among hundreds of highly qualified scientists in the early stages of their careers on the basis of "their exceptional promise to contribute to the advancement of knowledge."

Twenty-eight former Fellows have received Nobel prizes. "It is a terrific honor to receive this award and to be a part of such a tremendous tradition of excellence within the Sloan foundation," said Dr. Brian Stoltz.

Candidates for the fellowships are nominated by department chairs and other senior scholars familiar with their talents. More than 500 nominations for the 2003 awards were reviewed by a committee of distinguished scientists, including Professor David Anderson of Caltech.

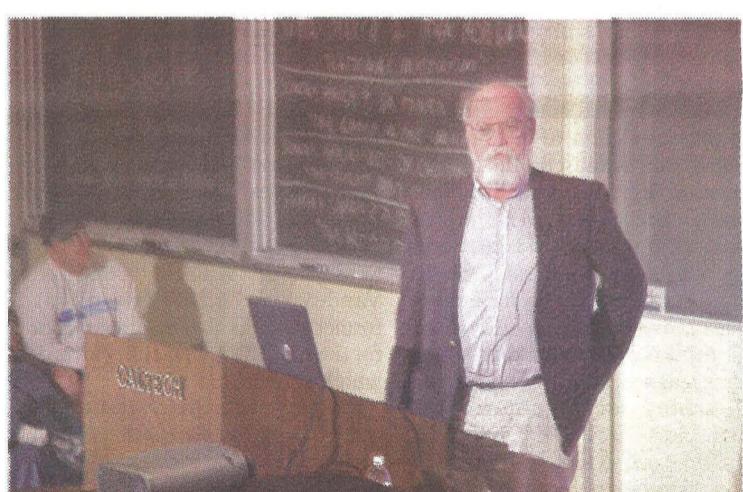
Each Sloan Fellow receives a grant of \$40,000 for a two-year period administered by each Fellow's institution. Once chosen, Fellows are given the flexibility to pursue whatever line of inquiry that is most interesting to them. This is done so that these young scientists can have freedom while in this pivotal stage of establishing their own independent research projects.

Dr. Asimow commented that he will use his Sloan fellowship to "support further investigation into the presence of trace concentrations of water in the deep earth and its effects on mantle melting and physical properties... I'm pleased because funds that are unattached to any particular grant are enormously useful for seeding new and high-risk projects that are not quite ready to turn into proposals."

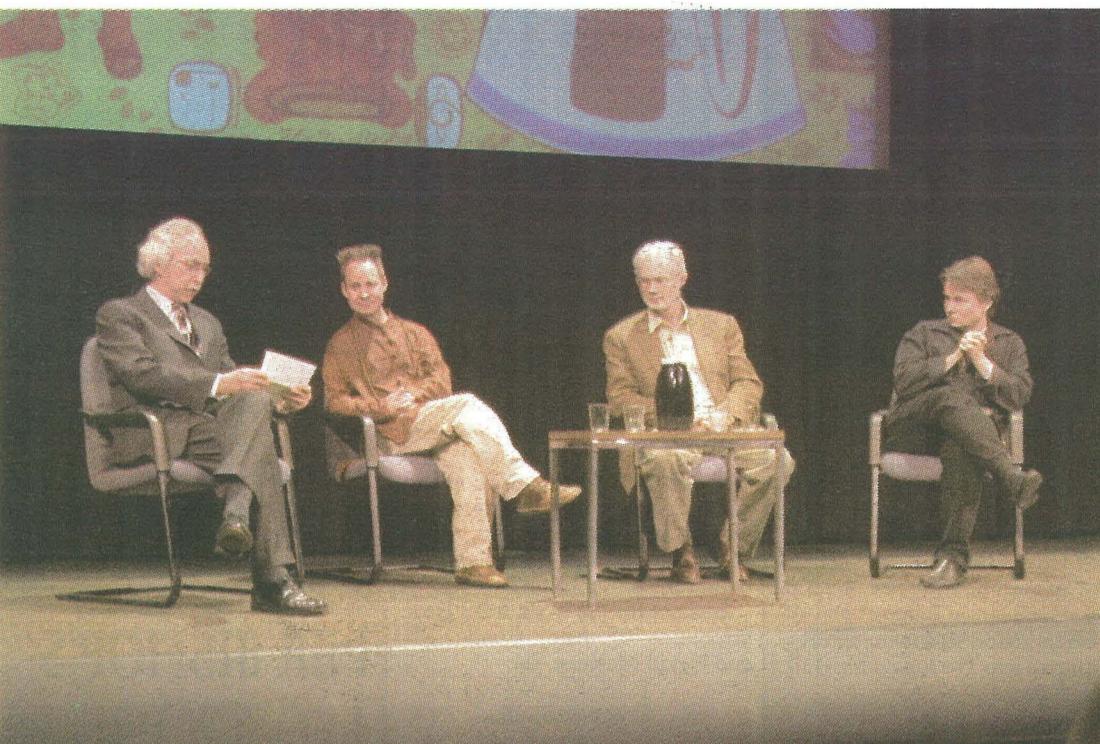
On his research, Dr. Jonas Peters said, "The Sloan award will provide invaluable seed money for work we've initiated in the past few months regarding nitrogen reduction using molecular iron systems... Ideally, our work in this area will help to guide mechanistic postulates concerning nitrogen reduction at iron by nitrogenase enzymes, a family of enzymes studied by the Rees group here at Caltech."

It's hard work being a scientist and as Dr. Calegari added, "It's nice to get approbation from one's peers. I feel that this award certifies to some small degree the interest and scientific merit of my work and it encourages me to continue to pursue it."

## A LITTLE SKEPTICAL



D. Korta/The California Tech  
Skeptics of the Skeptics Society ponder "Free Will, Determinism and Evolution" before university professor Daniel Dennett.



Caltech and the L.A. Philharmonic play host to a "conversation" between the creators of "El Nino" last Saturday. "El Nino" is the story of the birth of Christ told from a multicultural perspective.

## 'El Nino' Turns Secular Eye to Christ

By ROBERT LI

The Saturday before last, Caltech in conjunction with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association presented a "conversation" between the creators of the recently performed oratorio, "El Nino."

Attending the event were John Adams, the award-winning composer of "The Death of Klinghoffer"; Esa-Pekka Salonen, conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the past decade; and Peter Sellars, a director whose over 100 works have included the famous opera "Nixon in China." Moderating the discussion was Jack Miles, a Pulitzer-wining author and a visiting professor of humanities at Caltech.

The event was held as a part of a series of promotional activities leading up to the performance of "El Nino" by the Los Angeles Philharmonic last Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Around 200 people were in attendance at Beckman Auditorium.

The event started with Jack Miles giving a lengthy introduction to the oratorio. In short, "El Nino" is the story of the birth of Christ told from a multicultural perspective that carries with it a message for uniting a divided world.

The presentation is entirely modern and multimedia. In the background of the performance, a silent film of L.A. street life is shown and the performers, consisting of three vocal soloists, three countertenors and three dancers are dressed in casual clothes and barefoot.

Primary source texts for the libretto include the Bible—both the King James and the Gnostic—the Wakefield Mystery Plays, Spanish poems by prominent Hispanic women and the medieval composer Hildegard von Bingen.

"El Nino" debuted in Paris in December of 2000 and one month later made its North American debut in San Francisco.

The message of "El Nino," as discussed by Adams and Sellars during the subsequent conversation, is

the miracle of Christ's birth but from a secular and biological rather than religious sense. Sellars described childbirth as "being in a room with four people and suddenly there are five." It is also for the secular reason that only women truly understand what childbirth is that Adams and Sellars decided to use poetry from female poets in "El Nino" to express the moment of Christ's birth.

The music of "El Nino" has been described as "sort of ocean of sound in which all the elements of the oratorio live" and "powerful and affecting and sublimely assured music." During its creation, composer John Adams said that his model was Handel's "Messiah" and that he wanted to recreate the mosaic-like approach to the narrative.

The *L.A. Times* also reviewed the event.

## Clubs, Parks Among Area Attractions

*Continued from Page 1, Column 5*

sun, take advantage of the huge nearby water park, Raging Waters, at the intersection of the 10, 210 and 60 freeways. There's always Knott's Berry Farm and Universal Studios to try as well. Tickets for all these places, except for Raging Waters, are also available at discounted prices through the Caltech Y.

When the sun sets, the fun doesn't have to stop. Like any large city, Los Angeles also offers plenty of interesting night life and clubs. A non-Techer, Tokuma Nakazawa from the University of California, Irvine, recommends Sky Sushi in Santa Monica for hip-hop music and Arena, also in Santa Monica, for trance on Friday nights and hip-hop on Saturday nights.

The Mayan in Hollywood features world-class deejays spinning trance, while the Circus Disco in Santa Monica features Spundae on Saturday nights with trance and house. Apparently, if you go to Spundae, you will become familiar with Cole who works the front ticket area and will shake your hand if you are male and kiss your cheek if you are female, so be warned.

All of these aforementioned clubs are for partiers 21 and over. For those of us not yet quite 21, The Palace in Hollywood features KROQ 106.7 FM on Thursday nights, KIIS 102.7 FM on Saturday nights and POWER 106 after three a.m. in the wee hours of Friday morning. For those of us not even 18—I know there are some of you

out there!—Club 17 in Hollywood is for partiers strictly above 17 and under 21. Meanwhile, for those prefer sitting down and listening to a good comedy show, the Ice House in Pasadena is open to those 18 and over and has a two-drink minimum.

Los Angeles also features a huge collection of concert venues. The Los Angeles Philharmonic performs regularly at the Hollywood Bowl. Between these shows, you'll find other great performers, from Yanni to Coldplay to Santana, at the Hollywood Bowl this summer.

The Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles also offers a wide range of shows, including Matchbox 20, Christina Aguilera and Justin Timberlake, Fleetwood Mac and the Dixie Chicks. If you miss Fleetwood Mac and the Dixie Chicks at the Staples Center, they'll also be performing at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim in July, while Bon Jovi, featuring special guests the Goo Goo Dolls and Tori Amos will perform in April.

If you're willing to make the hour-long drive down to Irvine, Pearl Jam will be performing at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater in early June. Grammy award winner Norah Jones will be performing at the Santa Barbara Bowl and the Greek Theatre in late July. In all honesty, you will be able to find the music you like somewhere in Los Angeles.

Lastly, as the summer days and your bank account starts to wane, you can always rely on the great national pastime for cheap entertain-

ment. Dodger Stadium is just 15 minutes away, tickets start at \$6 and there are usually some nifty knick-knacks like bobbleheads and foam fingers to collect. There are great discounts and packages available, like the Dodger Coca-Cola Family Pack: four tickets, four Cokes, four Farmer John Dodger Dogs and parking for \$39. If baseball's just not for you, the Los Angeles Galaxy plays Major League Soccer in its new stadium, the Home Depot Center, in Carson.

If all else fails, I would suggest stocking up on those hours of sleep before the new school year starts.

### CALTECH CONVENTIONAL WISDOM WATCH

**Oh Yeh!** Bent on outpunning the world, I make my grand, timeless leap into the wanton world of Crippling Depression. But, seriously: big congratulations, guys, on the press coverage. When you're syndicated, remember the *Tech*!

**The River Niles:** The master of branch cuts has Pierced his way into the annals of history. To a feyn man: congratulations!

**Doughnut:** I was bushed and shoved like Iraq by the U.S., shocked and awed by falling projectiles from Page and all along, I dough not even get a doughnut. Perhaps more doughnuts can be part of the next Somalian aid package.

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