

THE CALIFORNIA TECH



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JUNE 1, 2009

Friends and family remember Brian Go Page President was friend to many students

By Marissa Cevallos

STAFF WRITER

Page House president Brian Go passed away on campus on May 17. Brian was a junior double majoring in applied math and computer science, was a TA for CS 2 and CS 38, played ultimate Frisbee, and fenced.

Brian has two younger siblings, a brother and a sister, and went to Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in Bethesda, Maryland.

Friends marveled at how Brian, known to his House as BGo, was so in tune with others' emotions.

"I always felt like he was on my side even if he didn't agree with me," said friend and former Page president Mason Smith.

BGo formed friendships quickly and deeply.

"It is rare to be able to speak so comfortably with someone after such a short period of knowing him, but that's who BGo was," said IHC chair Pallavi Gunalan.

In high school BGo always had lots of friends, but also reached

out to people without a social group. He organized Chipotle Tuesdays in high school and included a Korean student who'd just transferred and didn't know that many people, an act of kindness the student's mother said always meant so much to him.

BGo was active in Boy Scouts, reaching the highest honor of Eagle Scout. His scout masters would always greet his parents with big smiles and stories of how when BGo was done with a task, he wouldn't stop—he'd find younger scouts and help them with their tasks.

Because he cared so much about those around him, friends say BGo could never sit and idly watch unjust situations. Last school year, he rallied classmates who were drowning in the graduate-level course load of Math 6a, a class supposed to just be an introduction to discrete mathematics, to demand more reasonable problem sets. Through working with the Academics and Research Committee, BGo helped change the scope of the problems and the requirement that it could not be

taken as a pass/fail course.

Brian's mother said he displayed the same zeal for fighting injustice in middle school. In 7th grade, he fomented an uprising against the 8th graders who ruled the back of the bus by organizing his classmates to sit where they pleased, in defiance of the 8th grader rules. The "rebellion" didn't last that long, according to his mom, but was a perfect example of how BGo rallied people to causes he believed in.

Friends say BGo had a seemingly endless amount of care, for everything from his House, his friends, his classes, and his research.

He'd pull all-nighters to finish the math problem everyone else gave up on, according to his freshman and sophomore year roommate Noah Tanabe.

When his girlfriend was feeling down one day, he went to Michaels and made her a necklace with Swarovski crystals, all before she came back from her 90 minute Spanish class.

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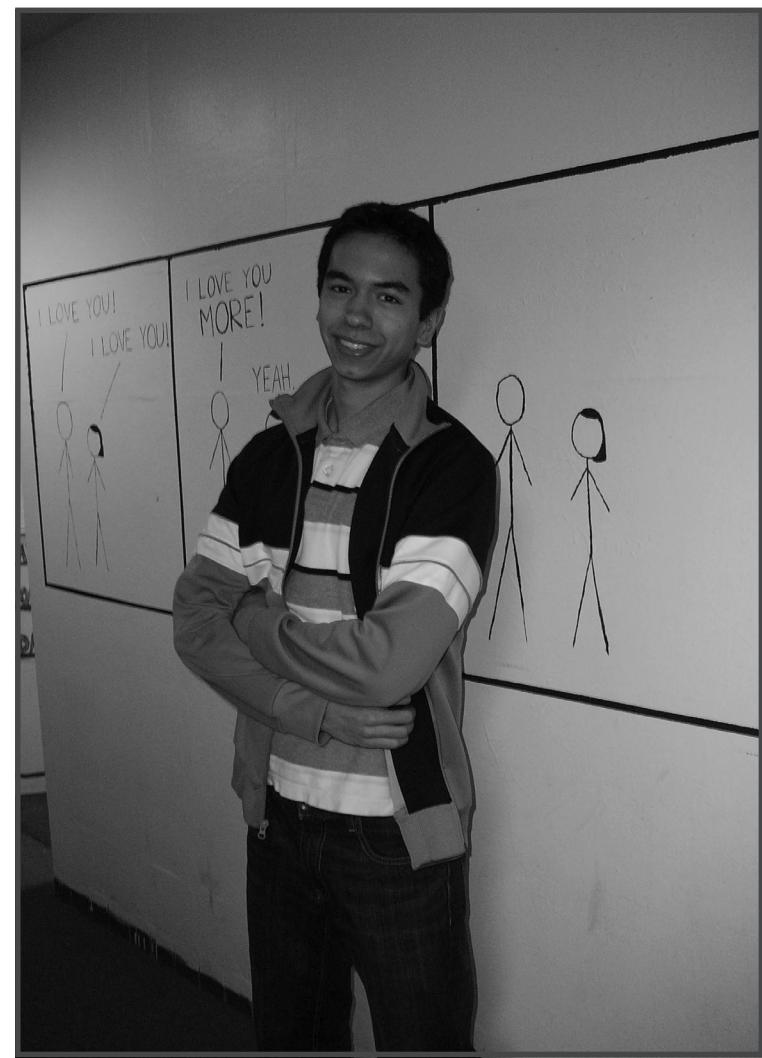


Photo courtesy of Anna Beck

Students may see more loans, smaller merit awards

By Joel Nikolaus

STAFF WRITER

With the recent decrease in the endowment, many students can expect to see a change in what they are awarded in financial aid for the upcoming year.

As part of an effort to make ends meet, the Caltech Financial Aid Office will likely issue students loans where they would have previously received grants.

"We will continue to meet 100%," said Don Crewell, the director of the Financial Aid Office, but "When people petitioned for increased funding we used to give grant money. Now we are going to have to give some loan money." He added that they would "probably have to do that with continuing students [as well]."

Following the removal of freshman merit awards earlier this year, the Financial Aid Office has also reallocated funds that were until recently set aside for upper class merit awards. The office is "moving a good part of the upperclass merit program," said Crewell because the funds are needed for need based aid. He said that while there would probably be around the same number of awards as in previous years, that would mean "probably smaller award amounts."

All of these efforts are part of a short-term plan to balance the

current year's budget and make sure the Financial Aid Office does not run a deficit. When asked about dipping into the general budget, Crewell said "[It has] Never happened in the past. Not the Caltech way."

Although the changes are only aimed at rectifying the situation for this next year, how long these changes last depends largely on how the endowment performs. "Temporarily might be 2 or 3 years," said Crewell. The goal is that "until the endowment pay out can bounce back, to avoid running deficit in scholarship."

Next year he said "[We] see if we will need to do the same thing again." Unless gifts increase that may be the case and students will continue to see more loans and smaller merit awards. While Crewell said the Financial Aid Office remains committed to meeting student needs, the big question they will be asking in the future is "Do we have the funds?"

The estimated budget for this next year is projected at somewhere between 14.5 and 15.5 million. So far there has not been a substantial increase of aid in current students, but there is an increase in the aid given to the incoming class. This pattern is normal, but is still exerting pressure on the Financial Aid resources. If the trend continues it may become a bigger problem.

Gary Lorden to Retire After 40 Years as a Statistics Professor

By Casey Jao

STAFF WRITER

His name is synonymous around Caltech with the show "Numb3rs". Undergraduates all know him from Math 2b, the Core probability and statistics course. Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. Math professor Gary Lorden will retire this summer, after having taught at Caltech for forty-one years. His successor has not yet been named.

"Caltech will miss him," said senior Po-Ling Loh, who TA'ed Math 2b last year. "Even for non-math majors, he was a gentle introduction to Caltech life."

"His courses were a big influence in my choice to go to grad school in statistics," said senior Max Grazier Gsell, also a former Math 2b TA.

"Gary has been an incredibly valuable resource for the Caltech community," said Professor Barry Simon in a phone interview, remarking that finding a suitable replacement has been difficult. Competing institutions like Princeton and UC Berkeley have dedicated statistics departments to woo high-calibre statisticians. Moreover, said Simon, "There are restrictions on hires imposed by the administration because of the economic crunch." The math department has several hiring goals but only "one bullet" to spend this year.

Professor Alexei Borodin will teach Math 2b this coming winter. The advanced statistics course Math 112 will not be offered until the department finds a dedicated statistics professor.

Although Lorden will no longer shoulder teaching responsibilities, he plans to continue doing some research, consulting for all kinds of people, serving as expert witness, and "teaching statistics to lawyers." He and his wife also plan to travel more.

"Even though you miss teaching, you have the opportunity to go whenever you want," he said.

The man behind "Numb3rs" also hopes to continue working

"Caltech will miss him," said senior Po-Ling Loh, who TA'ed Math 2b last year. "Even for non-math majors, he was a gentle introduction to Caltech life."

-- Po-Ling Loh

with the show. Despite the economic crunch, Numb3rs will continue shooting a sixth season.



Photo Courtesy of Caltech

"I do expect to be [involved]...but every year is a new ballgame," said Lorden, who has been advising the show since it debuted in 2004.

Lorden arrived at Caltech as a freshman in 1958, one of seven students to matriculate from his Los Angeles high school.

"I was so turned off by the [MIT] alum who interviewed me that I didn't finish my application," he recalled.

Debating initially whether to major in math or chemistry, he quickly ruled out the latter because he soon discovered that he had, in his words, "essentially zero physical intuition." But the dealmaker was Tom Apostol, his freshmen calculus teacher, who helped him realize that math was

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OPINION

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THE CALIFORNIA TECH

The Tech Staff wishes you all the best of luck on finals. Just remember to get a good night's sleep, study hard, and eat your vegetables. The following information might also be helpful.

C-Store Schedule

Sunday, June 7:
C-Store open until 2am

Monday, June 8:
Snake Kits 8-10pm North Kitchen
C-Store open until 2am

Tuesday, June 9:
Midnight Madness 11:30pm – 1am Chandler
C-Store open until 2am

Wednesday, June 10:
South Kitchen closed for lunch
Snake Kits 8-10pm North Kitchen
C-Store open until 2am

Thursday, June 11:
South Kitchen closed for lunch
Snake Kits 8-10pm North Kitchen
C-Store open until 2am

Friday, June 12:
South Kitchen closed for lunch and dinner
C-Store open until 2am

Saturday, June 13:
C-Store open until 10pm

Sunday, June 14:
C-Store open until 10pm
End of declining balance

Return of a Caltech Tradition *Mudeo is good ol' wrestlin'*

By Tom Lampo

UNDERGRADUATE

Mudeo is one of Caltech's oldest traditions. If you look through any of the old Big T's there's usually several pages devoted to photographs of Techers coated head to toe in mud. There are pictures of people wrestling, playing tackle football, wheelbarrow and sack races, and the infamous freshman vs. sophomore tug of war.

One year, the media coverage of Mudeo gave Caltech more exposure than any other event at Caltech, making it to the top ten plays of the day on ESPN Sports Center. At its heart, Mudeo is exactly what its name suggests; having fun playing games in a giant pit of mud.

Mudeo has changed over the many years it has existed. Alumni remember the event being a contest between the

sophomore and freshman classes, where the score was often kept for events such as sack racing, tire spree, horse and rider, wheelbarrow racing, and tug of war. As John Gee, class of '53 and former ASCIT president and organizer of Mudeo recalls, "The rivalry and competition were strong". In more recent years, Mudeo has tended toward team sport events, such as ultimate frisbee, soccer, and football, while tug of war seems to have survived the test of time.

Over the last decade the tradition waned and the turnout fell dramatically, mainly due to the renovation of the North field and the fields north of Avery playing host to the mods during the South House Renovation. This resulted in no field being consistently available for creating the requisite giant pit of mud, and there were several years where there was no Mudeo. With the renovations done, field space has opened up again.

But this year, Mudeo is back! After the renovations, the area north of Avery was designed to with Mudeo in mind. A giant dirt rectangle, planted with easy to remove and to replant wildflowers, has given Mudeo a permanent residence in a location on campus which during the year will be home to beautiful gardens, but for one day a year will be converted to an epic mud pit for all to enjoy.

This year, Mudeo is set to take place on that field north of Avery, from 2pm to 5pm. Be prepared to get very very dirty and to smile pretty for the news cameras. Pizza will be provided afterward by Tom Mannion, and there should be plenty of time for everyone to get ready for Mashup Massive later that evening. If you want more information or are interested in participating, contact Tom Lampo or Alan Pezeshki.

The California Tech

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We Need McCain's Spending Freeze... *... And a "Sheriff" to Stop the Spending Frenzy*

By Daniel Alvarez

UNDERGRADUATE

With the rejection of Propositions 1a-1e, some in Sacramento are asking Washington to help with the state's \$21 billion deficit. Think of a teenager who maxed out his or her credit card and asks his or her parents for a bail out. The problem is that the parents also purchased a million dollar home off of a \$70,000 salary. This of course refers to Washington's own financial mess.

In February of this year, it was predicted that the national deficit would hit an enormous \$1 trillion. This deficit was said to be "inherited" by the Bush administration, yet the Obama administration upped the ante by going on a spending binge from the likes the world has never seen. In its first 100 days, the Obama administration spent \$2.2 trillion, more than the combined total of every president in history within the same time frame. What is even more amazing is how much of this spending has been wasted.

Within the \$787 billion stimulus bill were plans to build a skate park in Rhode Island and bike racks in Washington D.C. Also cloaked under the banner of "economic stimulus" were \$5.8 billion in health prevention and wellness programs like smoking cessation. These programs are a slap in the face of present and future taxpaying Americans, but it did not stop there.

We then had the \$410 billion omnibus bill, laden with nearly 9000 earmarks. Among these were \$6.6 million to study termites in New Orleans, \$2.2 million for the Center for Grape Genetics in Geneva, \$1.7 million to study why pig waste smells so bad, the list goes on and on. Unsurprisingly, the projected

deficit has steadily ballooned to the current value of \$1.84 trillion. Some will undoubtedly call me a fiscal fear-monger for making a big deal of changes in a decimal point, but I think too many people do not realize that the difference (\$840 billion) is in and of itself about twice the largest federal deficit of all time prior to 2009.

With Obama's massive \$3.4 trillion budget, the binge sees no end in sight. TARP money is flowing out of the treasury like water and the administration wants to allocate \$600 billion to unnecessarily nationalize healthcare. At this rate, we will soon be spending more on the interest of our debt than we do on national security. And this is not even taking into account one of the biggest issues that the media consistently seems to overlook: social security costs as the baby boomer generation hits retirement age.

How can we confront the colossal deficits that we have been running up? One option is to put the treasury on overdrive and print our way out of debt, but of course inflation would sink the dollar in value to the point that it might start giving the peso competition. With countries like China and Brazil trying hard to dethrone the dollar as the world's currency standard, inflation of the dollar is the last thing that we want.

Another option is to significantly increase taxes. This is an issue where I differ with many on the right who cry heresy at the mention of tax hikes in any way, shape, or form. It amazes me how many fiscal conservatives think we can even begin to pay our huge deficit without some additional tax revenue. I must concede, however, how effective people have been in making

their point that tax hikes are not an option. Evidence to this is the defeat of Propositions 1a-1e in California and, on a national scale, the hundreds of thousands (at least) who showed up for the 278 Taxed Enough Already (TEA) parties hosted around the country. I wish that more of those people would have joined me in protesting the problem as it was being created; namely, the passing of unprecedented federal spending.

There was one man, however, who proposed an extreme solution to an extreme problem. This man, often referred to as "The Sheriff" for his tough stances on federal spending, is

John McCain. During the debates he was ridiculed for proposing a freeze on federal spending with the exception of national defense. Obama cleverly responded by saying that McCain's approach was like hacking the budget with a hatchet, whereas he would use a scalpel. Of course what he really did was feed the budget steroids.

McCain will never be president of the United States, but his spending freeze may be the only way to lift the United States out of the fiscal red zone. We Americans need to rally together like we did for the TEA parties, but under the banner of drastically reducing federal spending. The burden can no longer be put on the next generation of taxpayers.

Congratulations Class of 2009!

**The California Tech
wishes you the best of
luck.**

Niles Pierce Gives Watson Lecture on “programmable chemistry”

By June Zhang
STAFF WRITER

Two weeks ago, Niles Pierce delivered the final Watson Lecture of the year titled, “In Pursuit of Programmable Molecule Technologies,” which described his method of “programming” polymers like DNA to act in a predictable manner.

Pierce, assistant professor of Applied and Computational Mathematics and Bioengineering, conducts research in a relatively new field that has led to potentially

Has Possible Implications for Cancer

a new type of drug design, which targets the genes of unhealthy cells to cause cell death. This research has applications in drugs for cancer treatment.

The lecture drew a full crowd and he began the lecture with a vivid real-time animation of the inner workings of the cell and discussed the nature of his research, that his work could be described as taking advantage of “programmable chemistry.”

Following the introduction, Pierce spoke about the ability to assemble and disassemble DNA or RNA polymers into specific structures. Hairpin RNA molecules with specific toehold sequence and multiple domains can be predictably assembled by a downstream reaction given a particular trigger sequence.

Professor Scott Fraser described his work as taking the “junk box method” of putting

things together and making it rational. As Pierce, himself, put it, his work is like studying or making sense of a Jackson Pollock piece of art.

In addition to describing his work with “programmable chemistry,” Pierce discussed his developments of multiplexed bio-imaging. He showed pictures of zebrafish embryos with multicolor and simultaneous imaging. His work allowed for a five dimensional analysis documenting spatial components, time, and gene.

Professor Pierce attended Princeton University for his undergraduate studies, and attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar graduate student. Pierce came to Caltech in 1998 as a Postdoctoral Scholar working with Professor Stephen Mayo on computational protein design. Since becoming an Associate Professor at Caltech, Pierce has won numerous teaching awards, including the Feynman Teaching Prize in 2003.

ASCIT BoD Minutes

ASCIT BoD Minutes for May 22

Officers Present: Anthony Chong, Andrey Poletayev, Michael Maseda, Maral Mazrooei, Nadia Iqbal, Laura Conwill

Officers Absent: Pallavi Gunalan

Guests: Perrin Considine, Sarah Marzen, Lisa Zhang, Brian Merlob, Gloria Tran, Peter Sadowski, Stephen Wilke

Call to order: 12:13 PM

Funding requests:

- **Baskets:** CCF has been making gift baskets for staff members who have been laid off. They would like to make more, but this will require additional money to fund them.
 - **Motion to approve** \$100 for staff gift baskets. **VOTE: Passed (4-0-0)**
- **Mashup Massive:** MHF will not fund alcohol, so Lisa requests \$600 in addition to ASCIT’s previously pledged \$300 for the party.
 - **Motion to approve** \$600 for Mashup Massive. **VOTE: Passed (4-0-0)**
- **Ricketts Lighting:** A few years ago, Ricketts and Lloyd bought lights for parties; many of these are no longer in good enough condition to be used. Peter requests \$300 to buy additional lights in time for tomorrow’s GNG party. The lifespan of these lights is 1-2 years, and the lights could be lent out to other houses for their parties.
 - **Motion to approve** \$300 for lighting. **VOTE: Passed (4-0-0)**
- **Boba Party:** The deans decided that 250 people are coming to the party, and 75 of these will be drinkers. Perrin has received funding from MHF and the GSC, but needs additional funding to cover the cost of alcohol.
 - **Motion to approve** \$150 for the boba party. **VOTE: Passed (4-0-0)**
- **BFP:** Gloria came to request funding; Maral brought the happy news that Fleming automatically gets \$500 for interhouse.

President’s Report:

- **Staff:** Members of the BoD should make sure they are working closely with their staff members.

Officer Reports:

- **V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair):** The ARC is working on their longstanding projects, including compiling course reviews and dealing with complaints. They are discussing whether to have subsequent student-faculty lunches at the Ath. Andrey submitted an article on the ARC’s activities to last Monday’s Tech. The ARC has also been working on logistics for ASCIT teaching awards; the date for the ceremony is Wednesday, June 3, at 5 PM in Dabney Gardens. Committee interviews will be tomorrow. The Core Curriculum Task Force will be encouraged to put out a survey to gather student feedback.
- **V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair):** The IHC is in a period of mourning. They have also been working on housing issues.
- **Operations Director:** Sign-ups have been posted for appointed positions (Big T editors, little t editors, etc).

- **Treasurer:** Maral got in touch with the person who sets up club accounts. Once this is taken care of, Maral will send out funding awards with Chris.
- **Social Director:** ASCIT Formal is tonight! The cost was slightly more than anticipated.
- **Secretary:** Laura emailed campus security regarding Jddy Chen’s suggestions for decreasing the number of bike thefts by installing decoy video cameras.

Meeting adjourned: 12:51 PM

Submitted by Laura Conwill
ASCIT Secretary

ASCIT BoD Minutes for May 29

Officers Present: Anthony Chong, Andrey Poletayev, Michael Maseda, Maral Mazrooei, Nadia Iqbal, Laura Conwill, Pallavi Gunalan

Officers Absent:

Guests: Tim Black, Brian Merlob

Call to order: 12:18 PM

Funding requests:

- **ASCIT Awards Refreshments:** Andrey requests \$350 for food at ASCIT awards. Good food will help to make the event a more pleasant experience for everyone involved. Maral will use the extra SFC budget for this.
 - **Motion to approve** \$350 for food. **VOTE: Passed (5-0-0)**

Officer Reports:

- **V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair):** The ARC did committee interviews. Andrey is expecting a survey from Mike Brown for students from the Core Curriculum Task Force. Plans are being made for the upcoming ASCIT awards. The ARC has also been working on option wikis.
- **V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair):** The IHC gave Housing the list of summer room assignments for each house. They began their discussion of this fall’s Rotation, which they will continue at their next meeting. Over the summer, Pallavi wants to work on developing the career center.
- **Operations Director:** Andrey and Mike met with Rick Bischoff yesterday regarding Prefrosh Weekend. Mike plans to meet with Dvin next week regarding the donut website.
- **Treasurer:** Maral is waiting on information from Financial Services before she can go ahead with club funding awards.
- **Social Director:** There’s a boba party in the RF courtyard tonight! Mashup Massive is tomorrow!

Scheduling:

- **Interviews:** The BoD will be interviewing candidates for the convocations committee, MHF committee, Big T editors and business managers, Totem editors, little T editors and business managers, and DevTeam members this Sunday.

Meeting adjourned: 12:43 PM

Submitted by Laura Conwill
ASCIT Secretary

Students and Staff Gather in Performance of Galileo

by Helen C. Kondos



Over the past two weekends, Theater Arts at Caltech (TACIT) has given six performances of Bertolt Brecht's Life of Galileo. The performances, directed by Brian Brophy, were outside at the Gates Annex Patio. The audience sat in chairs on the grass and bundled up to see the show that was performed at nighttime. This year marks the four hundredth anniversary of Galileo Galilei turning his telescope towards the heavens.

The play was cut extensively, but still had a running time of slightly less than two and a half hours. Before each performance, Caltech's madrigal group sang a few songs.

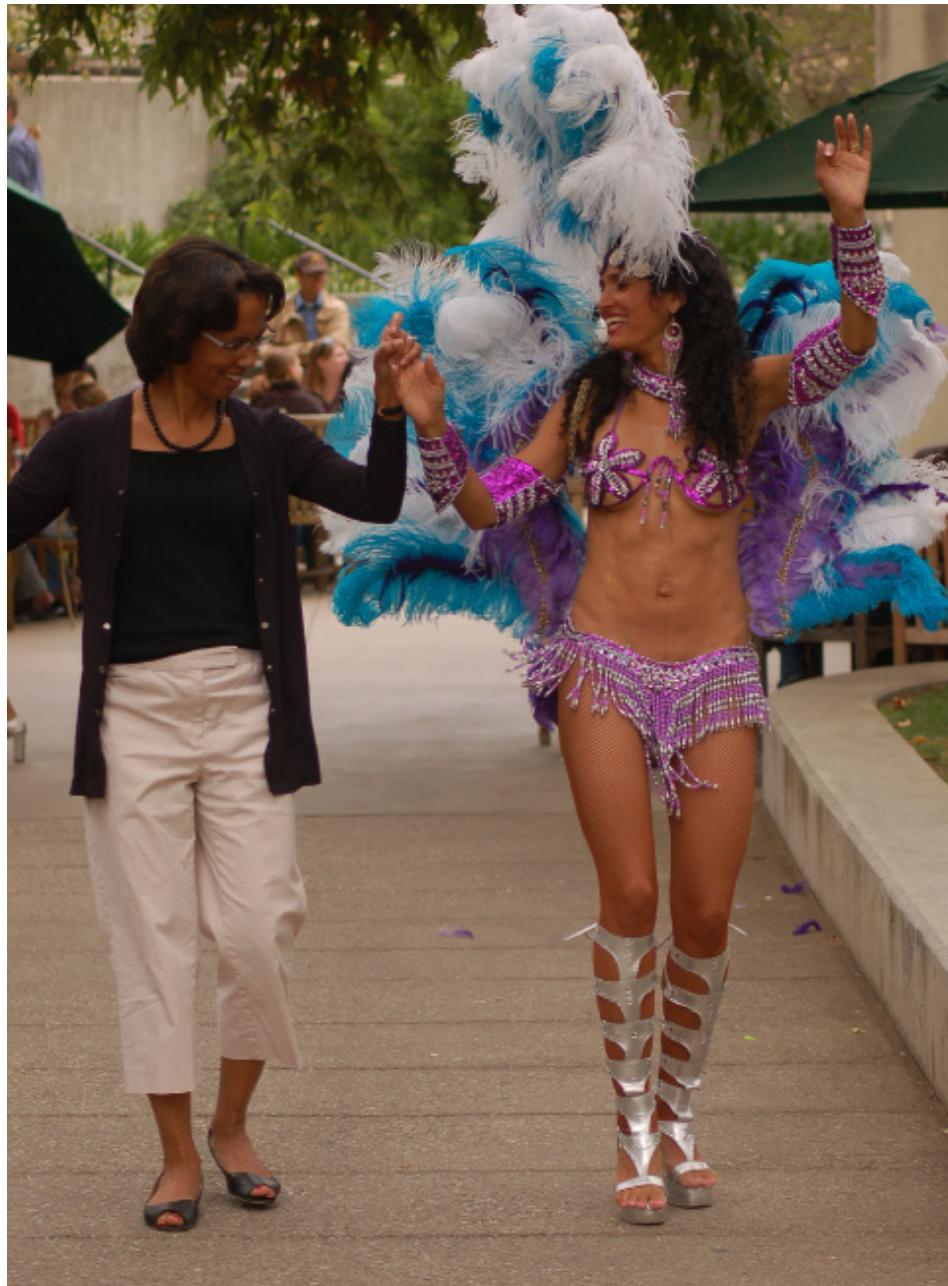
Each scene began with a description and a short song. Matthew Elgart, a Caltech guitar instructor, composed the original music specifically for Caltech's run of the play. The cast and crew was made up of over thirty drawn from all parts of the Caltech community, including undergraduates, graduate students, alumni, and

JPL employees. A different prominent scientist performed the cameo part of the Vatican head astronomer Christopher Clavius each night, including Mike Brown, infamously known for discrediting Pluto.

Having the play outside presented unique problems, but it gave the audience a feeling of being more involved in the action. When Galileo looked through the telescope, he was actually viewing the night sky. In fact, the actors made entrances from behind and to the side of the audience members. Set designer Janne Larson built the set around the Annex Patio, the audience, and the audience itself.

Audience turnout was high, despite some cool temperatures. The first Saturday of the run included a performance for alumni only during Alumni Weekend. On Saturday, May 23, there was a Galileo discussion, GalCon, preceding the show led by visiting Professor of History Noel Swerdlow. The play's theme of conflict between scientific discovery and established institutions still holds much relevance in our society today.

Semana Latina



Brazilian Samba dancers perform in front of Chandler in celebration of Semana Latina, sponsored by the Caltech Latino Association of Students in Engineering and Science (CLASES)

Pixar takes it UP another level

by Zenan Chang



Balloons, light, and fun party favors can bring out the child in all of us. Pixar's "Up" has no shortage of party balloons and may be the first movie to offer them such an enormous amount of screen time.

And so there is a little bit of foreshadowing in "Up," a story of Mr. Fredericksen, an old man discontent with the ways of the modern world. Into his life barges a young and eager boy, Russell, on his way to completing his badge collection as a Wilderness Explorer. Russell needs one more, the elderly-assistance merit badge, and so our characters are brought together in a fantastical adventure involving a house lifted by thousands of balloons, talking dogs in the South American jungle, dreams to be fulfilled, and promises to be kept.

The movie begins with a prologue depicting the camaraderie of two children, Carl and Ellie, brought together by a common excitement for the daring adventures of an explorer named Charles Muntz. "Up" then follows this friendship as it blossoms into a sweet romance through a brief but beautiful sequence that captures the turns and emotions of life as the characters progress into old age. These few lyrical minutes, dialogue-free in a manner reminiscent of Wall-E, leave you at the beginning of the story with an aged Carl, now a balloon salesman called Mr. Fredericksen.

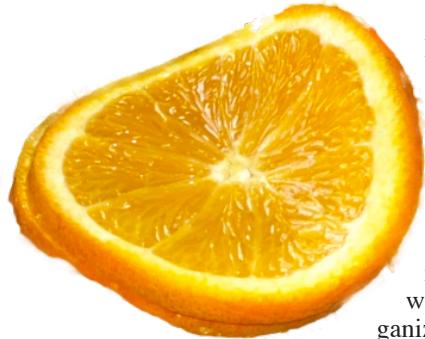
Most unique about "Up" is the interesting dynamic between the old and grumpy Mr. Frederickson, with his box-shaped head, and the round, chubby, and earnest Russell. The difference in their outlooks on life brought about by the gap in their life experience makes for plenty of comic relief, but also brings up some thought provoking issues on senior life and the place they are sometimes relegated in society. With the aging population, such issues are sure to become more and more relevant.

Pixar's recent track record has been quite impressive, with the movies Wall-E, Ratatouille, Cars, The Incredibles, and Finding Nemo coming out the past five years. Save for Cars, all have had a 96% or higher rating on Rotten Tomatoes and won the Best Animated Feature award at the Oscars.

As an experience, Up promises to add to the ranks of its predecessors as an enjoyable and uniquely endearing masterpiece.

Broad Café, Round 2

by Andrew Freddo and Dannah Almasco



Since our first review two years ago, Broad Café has been known for serving Mexican food. Before that it was Thai. Now, Broad has undergone another transformation, this time serving up sandwiches, deli style. Walking into Broad during lunch hour, the first thing we noticed was the chaos! It was crowded, and there was a large mass of people waiting for their sandwiches. There definitely was not any organization, as the menu was posted around the counter, not really in any one conveniently located place. So, to make our decisions, we had to walk around the Café a few times amongst those waiting for their food.

Once we did order, the wait was a good 15 minutes, more than it takes for a fresh Mongol Bowl! It seemed that Broad was unprepared for the load of people grabbing lunch, and it was definitely understaffed. Though there are some issues right now, many are probably simply new-restaurant kinks – a lot of trouble could be alleviated by making a clearer, take-away menu and adding another staff member at lunchtime.

We ordered two different sandwiches – the New York, New York and the Submarine Sandwich. Both were served on a hoagie roll, which

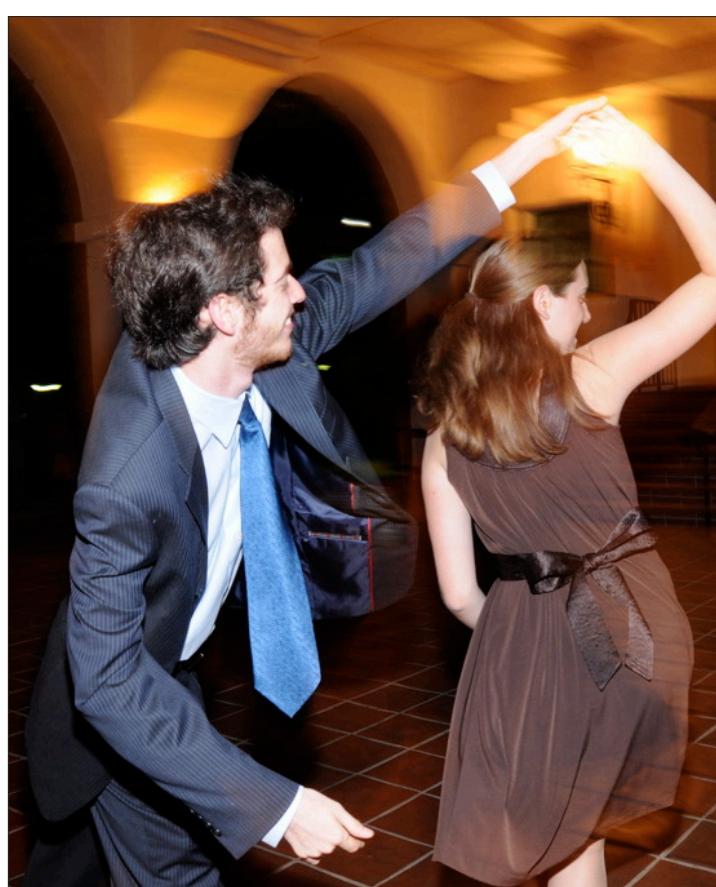
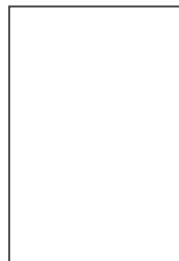
was better than the bread from Chandler's sandwich station but could have had a crunchier crust. The New York was stacked full of ham, turkey, and Swiss cheese, though there was too meat compared to the condiments on it. Overall, the sandwich needed more moisture, but all the ingredients tasted fresh.

The Submarine had ham, salami, and Swiss – again all piled very high. This one retained more moisture than the New York, possibly because of the Russian dressing (put on in error instead of the oil and vinegar). The salami was nice and sharp, but the cheese lacked some punch. Still, the sandwich was very good, though nothing out of the ordinary.

The revamped Broad Café, as a whole, is a nice change. It's good to pop in if you feel like some pastrami or another specialty meat, or if you're just on that side of campus. Otherwise, it's just not something you really crave (like you may a pizza or Mongol Bowl). Still, it may be worth it to check it out and avoid the hustle and bustle of Chandler, since they do make a good, filling sandwich at Broad!



....Ascit Formal



Photos by Bob Paz

Photo by David Hudec

Brian Go liked “work hard, play hard” culture of Page House

BRIAN GO, FROM PAGE 1

“He’d do things like that all the time,” said Taylor Martin.

BGo’s friends point to his “make-over” the summer after sophomore year as the most visible evidence of his ability to do anything he tried.

He’d been a “really skinny, goofy kid with glasses who wore polo shirts with pajama pants,” according to close friend Riley Franks, but wanted to be buff. That summer, he worked out almost every day, changed his diet, and got advice from his athletic roommate Jeremy. He bought new clothes, got a haircut, and started wearing contacts.

The result, as some of his friends put it, was “BGo got hot.”

His friends said he was dedicated through the entire transformation. For example, he spent four hours in front of the mirror trying to get his first contact in.

“Everything he tried, he did it to the best of his ability,” said Mason. Before the videogame Rock Band was released, BGo was watching YouTube previews of the game to figure out how to play the drums. When the game finally came out, BGo was already an expert.

He went on to pick up the real instrument, and posted videos of himself on YouTube playing covers of rock songs including “What’s My Age Again?” by Blink-182 and “Bullet with Butterfly Wings”. Strangers congratulated him for becoming such

a good drummer in only six months.

BGo’s drive extended to his academics, where his professors said he excelled. He was one of the most engaging students in his computer science classes, where his professors said he wouldn’t let anything slip by.

“He held himself to much higher standards than everyone else,” said Chris Umans, who taught BGo a handful of classes and was his research mentor this term.

BGo’s summer research men-

lecture at Caltech as a prefrosh, he walked out of the hall, pointed down at the ground, and put two thumbs up. “It was the school he wanted,” said his father.

He also knew he would be a Pageboy—he loved the “work hard, play hard” attitude of Page House, according to Mason.

“He poured so much of his heart and soul into improving Page House because he loved it so much.” If he saw people in the house who weren’t very social, he’d drop by their rooms and talk with them for a while.

“Everything he tried, he did it to the best of his ability.”

Mason Smith, close friend

tor Mani Chandy was not only impressed with his ability to solve problems—the two wrote a paper together on distributed software—but also with the balance BGo struck with work and socializing. BGo and Mason would occasionally skip group meetings to go to the beach, which Chandy thought was healthy.

“He was an ideal person in so many ways—he seemed so well-rounded,” said Chandy.

BGo knew as soon as he visited Caltech that it would be the place for him. After attending a

BGo wasn’t the obvious candidate for Page presidency because he hadn’t run for an office sophomore year, but as soon as someone suggested his name, the decision was a no-brainer.

“Everyone was like ‘duh’, of course,” said Noah Tanabe.

When the House met to talk and vote on the candidates, people were overwhelmingly in support of BGo, according to Page RA Anna Beck.

“Everyone would agree he was an amazing president,” said Mason Smith, the Page president before BGo.

The major test of BGo’s presidency came at the beginning of third term, when escalating drinking incidents in Page prompted the administration to impose an alcohol ban, which infuriated many members of the House. BGo was in the position of relaying the House’s concerns to the deans, while also trying to explain the deans’ worries to the House.

BGo organized a forum with the deans and members of the House, “to have the deans see us as a group of people who just want a safe drinking environment, and that our goals aren’t so dissimilar,” said Mason. BGo made clear to the House that they shouldn’t expect the alcohol ban to be lifted overnight, but to take the opportunity to show the deans why they felt a dry environment would affect Page negatively.

“He put that meeting together really well,” said Mason. Anna Beck said that the forum was so successful because BGo made sure everyone felt respected.

When the deans first told BGo about the alcohol ban, he gave an impassioned speech about the value of retaining Page House culture. Dean Barbara Green was so moved by his leadership, she started crying after he left the meeting.

“He impressed us to no end,” said Dean Green.

About two hundred students came to a candlelight vigil at Millikan pond two weeks ago to remember BGo; students, staff, and family attended a memorial

service last Thursday in Dabney Lounge where his father, friends, and research advisers spoke. Anna created a slideshow, starting and ending with video clips of BGo drumming.

Fewer than twenty-four hours after Page House students were told the news of BGo’s death, students from other houses came by with baked goods, cards, and words of sympathy. Lectures were awash with blue, Page’s house color, as students wore shirts in support of BGo. By noon, students had made hundreds of blue ribbons to pin to their shirts; a woven basket outside Page still holds the remainder of the ribbons.

“We’ve really appreciated what all the houses have done,” said Mason. “It was really nice to see everyone support us.”

Many of BGo’s relationships were built around what was to come—the future of Page House, the summer he would spend researching in Spain, and the plan to join his best friend Mason at Berkeley for grad school.

At the memorial service, Mason Smith said, “I will try to find in myself some of the qualities that made him so special to me and share those qualities with others.”

“And I hope that, if all his friends do the same, then maybe, in some way, he’ll live a much longer life than he was able to, and the world will be a better place for it.”

Winners of the undergraduate 2009 McKinney Prize

RYAN DENLINGER -- Sophomore, Non-Fiction Prize
SYLVIA SULLIVAN -- Freshman, Poetry Prize
HILLARY WALKER -- Sophomore, Fiction Prize

Based on nominations from the humanities faculty, this prize is awarded annually to one or more undergraduate students for the best writing in a freshman humanities course. The prize is administered by the Writing Center and judged by a committee from the Humanities division.

Department will need to find a new statistics professor; Math 2b not the same

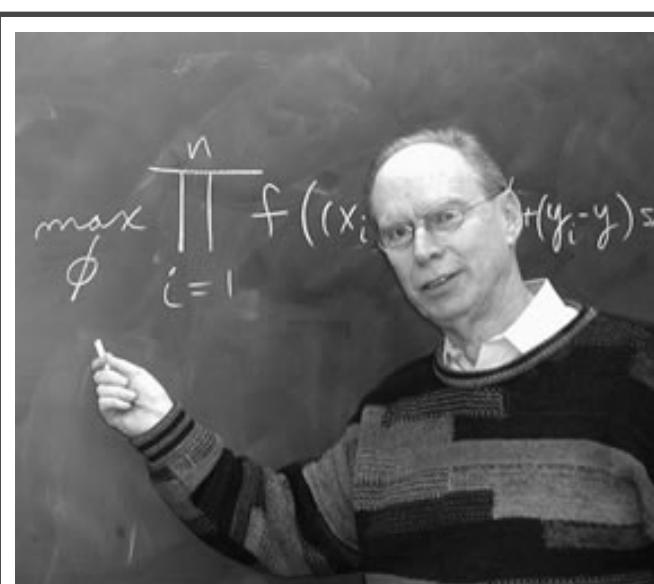
GARY LORDEN, FROM PAGE 1

“so beautiful.”

The North houses went up during his undergrad years. As a freshman and sophomore Lorden belonged to Ricketts but lived off-campus. Back then, he recalled, students hailing from more than one thousand miles away were given priority for on-campus housing. When the North houses were completed, he and some Ricketts friends moved into Page.

“I always feel a little lucky,” he said. When alumni visit their old houses, Lorden gets to visit both Page and Ricketts.

After completing his PhD in statistics at Cornell in 1966, Lorden returned to Caltech in 1968 as an assistant professor. In the 1970’s he coached Caltech’s Putnam team to five first-place finishes in six years. Since then, he has served as Dean of Students (1984-88), Vice President for Student Affairs (1989-98), and Acting Vice President (2002). And he has taught statistics every year from the very beginning.



Gary Lorden teaching Math 2b, a class that he taught since first coming to Caltech as a member of the faculty.

Two More Students Win Fellowships Abroad

By Joel Nikolaus

STAFF WRITER

abroad,” said Varma. “There are not that many opportunities after this.”

Lin said that he was also looking forward to the opportunity to spend a year abroad. He said he planned to spend time getting to know the culture and possibly the language. The Rotary club requires that he interact with the Rotary clubs both at home and abroad, but Lin is also required to run some sort of service project while in Norway. Lin said that he will end up “probably doing community outreach,” working with younger students, planning “events that encourage students to ask questions.”

The Fulbright is a national program run by the US Government and which receives funding from Congress. Students typically apply at the beginning of their senior year. Varma advised that students “start looking now. Talk to your adviser,” with her own cautionary advice that experience that “everyone in Europe is on break during the summer.”

The Rotary program is different. “It is more of a grassroots movement dedicated to sending young people abroad” said Lauren Stolper, Director of Fellowships and Study Abroad. Students typically apply during their junior year through their local Rotary club. Unlike many of the other fellowships the Rotary places particular emphasis on the whole person and is content to accept students with B-averages. “No point in this process is it just an application. [It is] always paired with an interview,” said Lin. “Just be honest, be yourself.”

For both the time abroad will provide a bridge to their eventual graduate studies. For Varma those plans are to go to graduate school to study number theory. She picked the Netherlands partly because Holland, and Leiden in particular, is a “hotspot” for the field. Although she will be enrolled in a two year masters program, coursework completed at Caltech will allow her to focus primarily on research and complete the program in a year. Of her future advisor in Leiden, she said “He does stuff I have never done before.”

Lin will also be conducting research in something that he has not had previous experience with. “I knew I wanted to study organometalics,” said Lin. The reason he will likely go to Oslo, Norway is that it was one of several places with faculty conducting that kind of research. Although he plans to continue different research in grad school, he said, “I hope it will help with my grad student career.”

But for both the experience is not just about the academics.” I wanted to do a year before grad school...always wanted to live

Groundbreaking Party Brings DJ Earworm to Campus

By Hillary Walker
STAFF WRITER

It is rare to find Britney Spears and the Beatles on the same play list; it is even rarer to find them within the same song, but Caltech students had the opportunity to personally taste such unexpected, heady blends at Mashup Massive, a unique, student-planned party this last weekend. The event took place on Saturday evening in the Glanville Courtyard at the Beckman Institute with a heavy turnout from both undergrads and grad students.

The innovative event featured San Francisco-based DJ Earworm (Jordan Roseman), an artist famous for his stylish, technically advanced concoctions. Mashups, also known as smashups, blends, bootlegs, and bastard pop, are created by merging two or more songs; most commonly, the vocals of one song are superimposed on the instrumentation of another. Although the reconstruction of songs with borrowed pieces

has been in practice since the beginning of recorded music, the true blossoming of electronic mashups began in the 1980's, and bastard pop has only recently gained its footing as a valid form of artistic expression, thanks in part to artists such as Girl Talk (Gregg Gillis) and DJ Earworm.

Jordan Roseman spent his early years on a hippie commune and then went on to earn a bachelor's degree in computer science and music at the University of Illinois. After moving to San Francisco, Roseman learned the art of blending music, adopted his pseudonym, and rose to prominence within the mashup scene. Roseman even wrote an instructional book titled "Audio Mashup Construction Kit," which was published in 2006.

DJ Earworm is notable for the sophistication and complexity of his pieces, some of which combine over twenty songs. Earworm's "United State of Pop 2008" blends the top 25 hits of the year, including songs by Coldplay, Rihanna, T. I., and Usher, and

peaked at #58 on Billboard's Pop 100 Airplay chart. "DJ Earworm is the epitome of pop," said Anton Karrman of Lloyd, one of the party's organizers. "It's like bringing MTV to Caltech."

Mashup Massive was planned by a committee composed of undergraduates from every house and the former GSC Social Chair. In designing the party, the group hoped to invigorate the Caltech social atmosphere and escape the expectations and traditions that guide typical interhouse parties. "We don't normally see things like this. It's something different," said Lisa Zang of Fleming. The Mashup Massive committee also seeks to bring undergraduates, graduate students, and alumni together—a fitting goal for a party centered on blended music—and hopes that Gradiators, a graduate event taking place earlier on the day of the party, will help boost graduate student attendance.

Funding was provided by the Moore-Hufstedler Fund, ASCIT, and the Caltech Alumni Association.



DJ Earworm sitting on a stylish couch underneath a nice abstract painting. He DJed this last weekends Mashup Massive.

Photo by Stephan Morais

Ditch Day Offers Students a Break From Classes



Counter-clockwise from right: A group of Blacker students on Ditch Day; junior Annie Hong removes candy buttons to create the letter "D" in the Lloyd XKCD stack; Blacker junior Kathryn Gunn is interviewed by the news about the stack she's doing; a Fleming stack watch a boxing game.

Seniors say Ditch Day "definitely rewarding"

By Natalya Kostandova
STAFF WRITER

This Wednesday, most Caltech students were involved in stranger things than usual. Whether it was rescuing Princess Zelda, whacking each other with giant blue balls, or riding around in a shopping cart covered with tiger fur, at least for most students the day was spent in anything but routine activities.

Like many of the other years, this Ditch Day attracted some attention from outside the one square mile that makes up the institute, which resulted in blog entries, a newspaper article, and a video reportage aired on ABC7 news. Unlike some of the other years, however, the 2009 Ditch Day managed to avoid causing major power outages, having to address the issues associated with bringing a non-Caltech animal to

campus, and inflicting or receiving major injuries. Although some of the participants were not safe from receiving a few hits and bumps, Ditch Day seems to have passed without major complications.

For many seniors, building stacks or overall organizing Ditch Day was a significant time sink, yet for some it was definitely worth it.

"Creating puzzles and trying to come up with some storyline to get the underclassmen engrossed in the stack was definitely rewarding when you can see how much fun they're having," said Calvin Ting, who built a Pokemon stack with three other seniors.

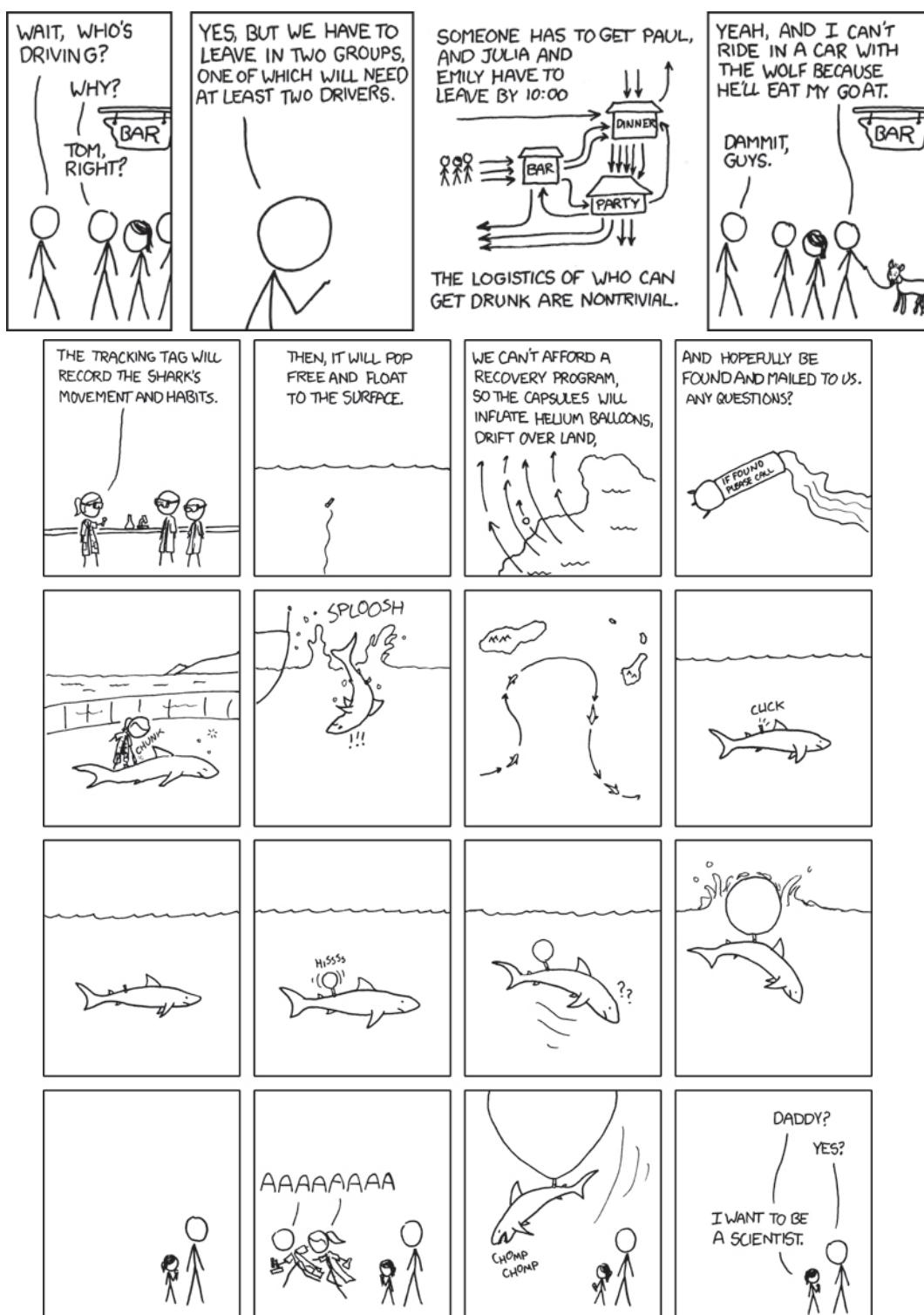
Although most of the stacks involved tasks that were located on campus, some stacks got underclassmen away from Caltech. Whether it was Los Angeles, Venice Beach, or Las Vegas, a portion of the participants got to a chance to explore a little bit of the world quite literally outside the classrooms.

Although most of the underclassmen participated in the stacks, some chose to spend their day in other ways, whether it was catching up on sleep, working on some sets, biking to the beach, or simply taking a day off to be lazy.

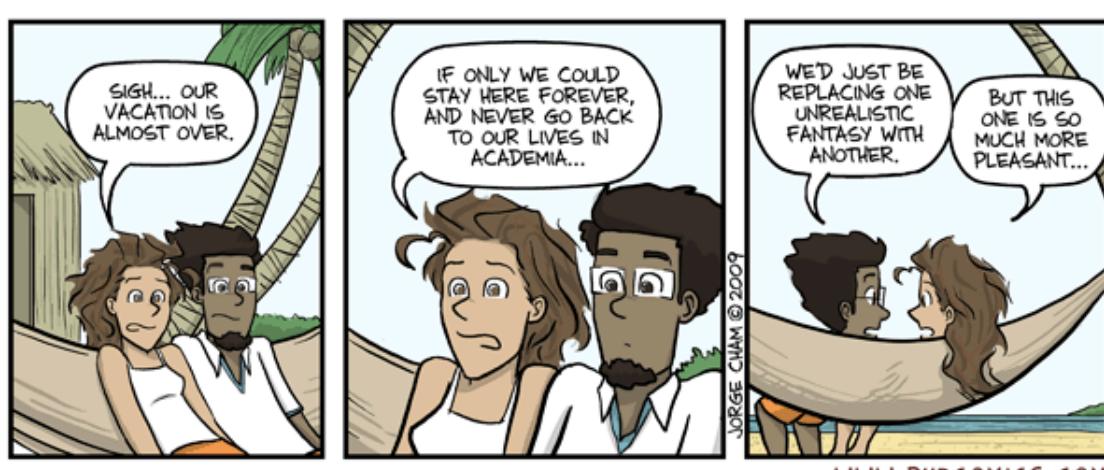
"The idea of ditch day is appealing in that it gives people the opportunity to have a day to not think about work, sets and classes," said an underclassman who did not participate in a stack. "It's good to take a day off to not think about these things sometimes."

Ditch Day, while not devoid of mind-boggling, thinking-intense, brain-hurting tasks, does give some relief from problem sets and daily grunge of Caltech. And, at least as far as my knowledge goes, unlike the claim of the ABC7 video, which portrays Ditch Day as the ultimate nerdy undertaking, none of the clues required a slide rule. Those things are outdated anyway.

XKCD by Randall Monroe



Ph.D. Comics by Jorge Cham



Squirrels Steal ASCIT Donuts



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5, p. 1085-1088.

COMMENTS (157)

Aaaahhh!!!!!! I got scooped!!!!!! O_o
Posted by cryinguncontrollably - 3 hours ago

OMG LOL!! ROTFL!!!! (Obfuscatingly Messy Graphs, Lacks Older Literature, Research Objectives Totally Flimsy, Lazy)
Posted by reviewer2 - 17 hours ago

If you liked this paper, you should check out the work by Weissberg, et al.
Posted by weissberg - 7 days ago

Can anyone tell me where find information on funding? Thanks!
Posted by desperategrad - 13 days ago

HOT MaTLab Dealz! FREE LaTex software! click HERE!
Posted by spambot 3 month ago

Obcious bias by liberal science elite. Whn will America see teh trut??????
Posted by wingnut 5 month ago

I don't get it, how is this related to string theory?? help!
Edit: oops! I didn't read paper. Never mind. Haha ;P
Posted by clueless36 1 year ago

If you liked this paper, you should check out the work by Weissberg, et al.
Posted by weissberg - 14 years ago

IF RESEARCH PAPERS HAD A COMMENT SECTION

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