



## COMMENCEMENT 2003



D. Korta/The California Tech

The year closes today with commencement ceremonies. It was a year of changes—of new faces, of new leadership, of somber goodbyes and, for many, of new beginnings.

### Amidst New Faces, Facilities, Plans For Future Mark Change-fraught Year

By MATTHEW WALKER

2003 proved a memorable year. There were the usual changes: scattered renovations around campus, new student leadership in ASCIT and the BoD, a slew of Student-Faculty Conference-inspired plans for academic improvement. But there were also deeper shifts: new administrative faces and philosophies, the dismantling of an entire department and President Baltimore's decision to finally pull out of an unpopular decision.

The year began in style with the opening of a long-anticipated new biology facility. The Broad Center was dedicated on September 10, 2002. Thirteen research teams will be based in the new center for biological sciences. The Broad Center will specialize in magnetic imaging, computational molecular biology, and neurology. A \$20 million gift from Edythe and Eli Broad made construction of the center possible. The gift was part of a \$100 million biology fundraising campaign.

Eli Broad, who has been a Caltech trustee since 1993, said, "Just as the 20th century was a period of major advancement for chemistry and physics, the 21st century will be the golden age for biology. For that reason, my family and I are proud to

support Caltech's scientists and their groundbreaking work that will no doubt take place in this building."

This year was a big year for Caltech and magazine rankings. As usual, Caltech earned a high spot in the *U.S. News and World Report* ranking of top universities in the country, coming in fourth. More surprisingly, Caltech was ranked 15<sup>th</sup> on *Seventeen*'s ranking of "The 100 Coolest Colleges." *Seventeen* describes the list as "the coolest schools were girls can get the best experience." Some of the factors involved in the ranking included professors, safety, partying and shopping. Rounding out the list is the appearance of Martha-Helene Stapleton '03 in *Glamour*'s "Top Ten College Women." Stapleton, who majors in physics, was formerly ASCIT president, received the McKinney Award for poetry and worked with a Nobel laureate at the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Physics. The other top ten included a young lady who overcame a heart attack at age 16 and one who spent a summer in Tanzania teaching people about HIV prevention.

Margo Marshak became the first female and first full-time vice president of Student Affairs at Caltech. Marshak took over from interim

Vice President Gary Lorden and came to Caltech after spending a year as vice president and dean of students at the University of Chicago. She was also vice president for student affairs at New York University for 10 years and she spent time at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the University of San Diego School of Law. The switch to a full-time Vice President of Student Affairs was made on the recommendation of an external committee chaired by Tom Anderson.

October 25 marked the start of a massive, five-year fundraising campaign. The Caltech Campaign Celebration, where the campaign was kicked off, was a ceremony hosted by Emmy Award-winning television journalist Charlie Rose. With a goal of \$1.4 billion, the campaign targets various projects including a new information sciences building, nanofabrication facilities and a new astrophysics building. There are also plans to build a telescope three times larger than any in existence, with a 30 meter diameter. Other funds will be dedicated to undergraduate financial aid, SURFS, and renovation of student houses. Said President David Baltimore, "To remain preeminent, we must bring to bear on our mission increasing re-

sources. Without the best labs, equipment, and instrumentation, we cannot hope to attract the very best scholars and students to campus."

The 2002 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics, Vernon Smith '49, was a Caltech undergraduate. After receiving a degree here in electrical engineering, Smith attended Harvard, where he received his Ph.D. in economics. His research involved running experiments to test the most basic economic laws. Smith returned to Caltech in 1973 as a Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Scholar, teaming up with Dr. Charlie Plott to continue this work. "Had Smith not come to Caltech," explained Plott, "he probably would not have won the Nobel Prize." Smith too realized the effect that Caltech had on him, saying "I learned at Caltech how to work. I learned that you had better not try to get by on your intellectual ability" and "Harvard thinks they're the best university in the world; Caltech knows that it is."

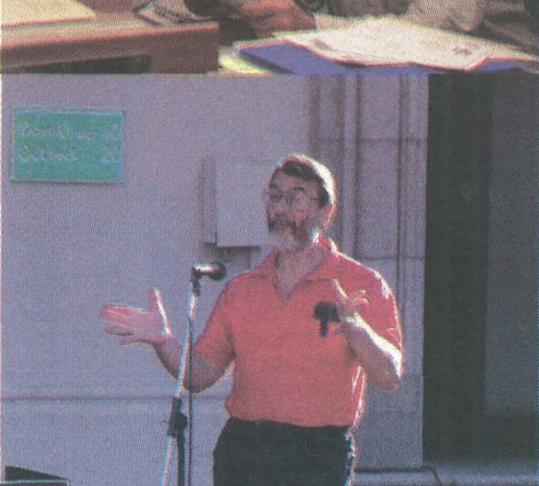
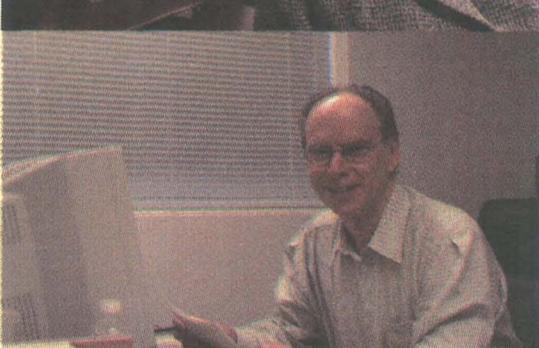
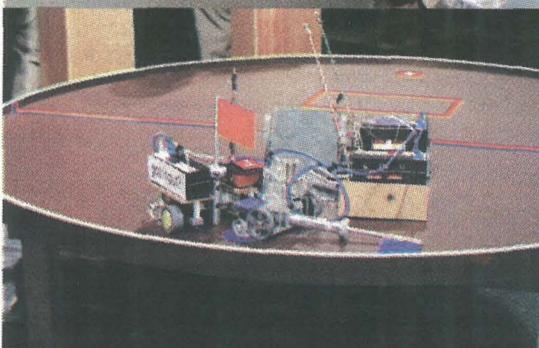
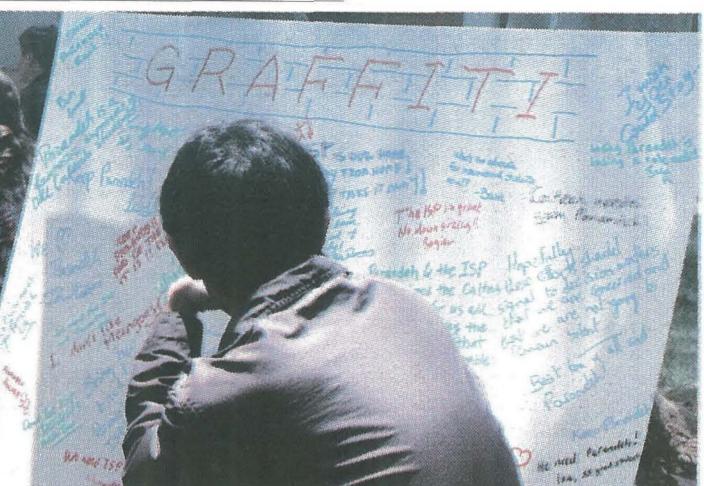
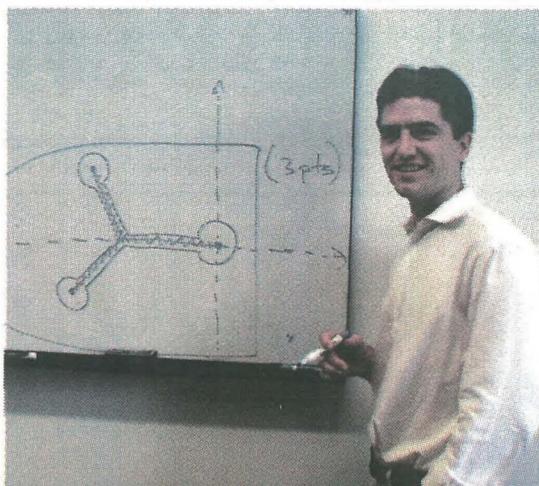
Renowned Irish Author Seamus Deane visited Caltech in early November as the first Words Matter writer-in-residence. Deane, who is an instructor at University College, Dublin and Keough professor of Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame, visited classes, met with faculty and gave lectures. He brought this message to Caltech: "People should know that the study of humanities involves a serious intellectual effort." Deane was born

in Northern Ireland and received his education from Queen's University, Belfast and Cambridge University. His first novel, *Reading in the Dark*, won the Irish Times Fiction Award and the Guardian Prize for Fiction, and it was a finalist for the Booker Prize.

After months of controversy, President Baltimore announced on November 15 that the *Vectors* project had been cancelled. The sculpture designed by Richard Serra would have been a 60-foot-long, \$2 million structure on the Beckman Lawn. Spending a portion of a building project over a certain size on public art is a City of Pasadena law. Most of the cost would have been covered by Caltech Trustee Eli Broad, whose donation made construction of the Broad Center possible. The announcement to cancel the plan came suddenly in an early-morning e-mail by President Baltimore, saying "This is not a judgment about the quality of the proposal but rather a judgment about the needs of the campus."

Caltech's first "What I Love about Caltech" event took place this year in lieu of a winter semi-formal. Organized by ASCIT Social Director Jialan Wang '04, the event aimed to show administration that there is a morale problem among students at Caltech. Wang described her motivation for planning the event: "I thought it would be great,"

*Continued on Page 2, Column 1*



## 2003: The Year in Review

*Continued from Page 1, Column 5*

she said, "if I could make it an event where students could interact with faculty and alumni. I began to want to do not just a social event, but an event with a positive effect on the community; the real reason I'm having the event is because students don't love Caltech." About 40 different faculty and staff members showed up for the event, and there were about 30 students at any given time. They told stories about Caltech, things they liked, and some they didn't.

Biology professor and department executive officer Pamela Bjorkman was awarded a Max Planck Research Award for her study of the molecular mechanisms of the human immune system. The award is given to candidates that have contributed "exceptional and internationally recognized achievements" in one of six categories of scientific achievement and comes with a cash prize. The selection committee gave Bjorkman the award based on her study of major histocompatibility complex molecules and how their structure affects their function. Bjorkman came to Caltech in 1989.

Fiction writer Michael Chrichton spoke in January in Beckman Auditorium, giving a talk entitled "Do Aliens Cause Global Warming?" A Michelin Distinguished Speaker, Chrichton contended that there are many cases of misrepresentation of science that lead to political policy. He cited a number of examples, including second-hand smoke, nuclear winter, SETI and global warming as places where political consensus outweighed scientific rigor in making policy decisions. This sort of easy acceptance of outlandish ideas stemmed from when the search for more planets gathered power after the discovery of an alien signal that was later debunked. Since then it has been easy for endeavors with minimal scientific basis to gain popularity.

Famed Chemistry Professor Harry Gray, author of *Chemical Bonds: An Introduction to Atomic and Molecular Structure*, was awarded the National Academy of Sciences Award in Chemical Sciences. The award was given for Gray's "demonstration of long-range electron tunneling in proteins, his inspirational teaching and mentoring of students, and his unselfish service as a statesman for chemistry." Dr. Gray completed the paper on electron tunneling in 1982, but was sympathetic about having to wait 20 years to receive the award, saying that "very often in these prizes people wait until they're sure you didn't screw up."

After several violations of Institute fire policy culminating with an incident after the house Initiation, Margo Marshak issued a letter of reprimand to Ricketts House on February 13 for its misbehav-

ior. The letter also informed the house that it would be charged \$5000 for additional security the following weekend at Apache and threatened to disband the house if there were any more problems at the house. The violations stemmed from unhappiness with an Institute implemented, City mandated order to remove the Ricketts fire pot. Failure of the Student Affairs office to make good on a promise to help replace the fire pot with a legal alternative exacerbated the problem. The order to remove the fire pot led to an internal conflict in Ricketts over the destruction of it. The \$5000 charge and threat of disbandment caused an outcry among students. There were several Ricketts protests in response to Margo Marshak's letter. Perhaps the most visible was Ricketts staging of a shantytown that emphasized the threat and consequences of house disbandment. Ricketts also sent security guards, who were actually Ricketts members, to protect Margo Marshak's office for two days to try to underscore how ridiculous it was to assign extra guards to Ricketts, who watched over an empty courtyard.

Prefrosh Weekend was shortened by a day this year to the dismay of many. The lack of exposure of prefrosh to house social events was the major concern. Since prefrosh were slated to leave on Saturday, there would be less time for houses to cram in their prefrosh social events. Since Thursday is homework night, the prefrosh would probably see a lot more studying than anything else. The lack of student input in the decision was another sore spot. The action caused a petition to be sent around, as well as a letter by the IHC and various other student leaders.

This year's Feynman Prize winner was Applied Math Professor Niles Pierce. Pierce, who taught the first term and a half of ACM 95, was a clear favorite for the award. Pierce received the award for his "enthusiasm, dedication, and charisma in teaching both undergraduates and graduates the foundations applied mathematics through ACM 95." "It took some convincing to get me to teach [ACM 95] the first time," said Pierce, "because I'd heard a lot of stories about how much it takes out of the professor." The Feynman Prize is meant to motivate professors to make their classes interesting. The prize is made possible through an endowment and contributions by Robert E. Paradise and Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hurt.

The second Student-Faculty Conference in as many years was considered a success. Faculty and student turnout were both much higher this year, leading to an increased exchange of ideas. Administration praised the productiveness of the conference and noted with pleasure that students were receptive of the idea of dean

of undergraduate studies. Students didn't find too many things to disagree about, thought some conference organizers. The geology and planetary sciences division was singled out and praised as a bastion of communication between students and faculty. Discussions at the conference included restructuring of Core 1, the creation of the CS major, restructuring of CS 1 and addition of resources to help professors teach better.

A "Gastroenteritis" virus struck on the Thursday of Prefrosh Weekend. Estimates range between 100 to 200 affected students, as well as some faculty, staff, graduate students and even prefrosh. Symptoms included nausea, vomiting and diarrhea in most students and a fever in some. The sickness began to pass within about a day. The health center prescribed a "self-care" regimen of rest, fluids and Tylenol. Caltech Auxiliary and Business Services provided Gatorade and saltine crackers to all of the houses and CDS prepared dinners of chicken soup to help quicken recoveries. Though food poisoning was initially suspected, there was no "common denominator" according to Health Center director Stuart Miller, which led the Health Center to suspect a virus was the cause.

May 13 brought a surprising announcement from Vice President Margo Marshak. Letters to student mailboxes read, "The office of Residence Life in Student Affairs has been eliminated." The result of both restructuring of the Student Affairs department and budget cuts, the loss of Residence Life surprised students because of the abruptness of the announcement and the lack of student input in the changes. A number of people throughout Student Affairs were eliminated, most visibly Residence Life Director Kim West and Assistant Director Sue Friedman, as well as International Student Programs Director Parandeh Kia. Various programs were shuffled around so that Erica O'Neal has been made an assistant Vice President in charge of Admissions, Financial Aid, the Registrar's office, the Women's Center and the International Student Programs, in addition to continuing her role as head of Minority Student Education. A department called Campus Life will take over the roles of Residence Life including RA selection, as well as continuing its duties in housing and dining. The Campus Life department will be headed by Tom Mannion and will work more closely with the Master of Student Houses, Professor Cathy Jurca. A rally was held on May 23 to support the dismissed Parandeh Kia and to denounce the administration's action. Organizers estimated the attendance of over 200 people who showed up to both support Kia and thank her for her role.





## Professor Brennen Searching for Career Change...



**...Whoops! Not too great at the unicycle**  
see Sanitation Engineer,  
p. 8c

### STATshot

A look at the trends that shape your world.

#### Whom Are We Talking to Online?

Category	Percentage
94% Person Living Down the Hall	
68% Girl Met at Frosh Camp	
32% Boyfriend	
17% Level 14 Half-Elf	
9.6% 17/ica	
3.8% Natalie, from Ekaterinburg, Russia, on www.bride.ru	
1.2% Jean-Paul Revel	



\$50.00  
Checks made  
payable to *Tech*  
Editors...Cash is  
good too



# the Olive

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## Saddam H. Alive! Makes Surprise Appearance at Fleming Party

FLEMING HOUSE, CA--Saddam Hussein made a surprise appearance at Fleming House's annual BFP interhouse party several weeks ago. When the ball was dropped at midnight to signal the new year in New York, Saddam jumped out of the Cup O' Noodles backdrop. He was reportedly shooting an empty paintball gun and yelling "Long live Iraq! Long live Saddam! I am the unconditional ruler of the world! Bush cannot defeat me!"

Some partygoers expressed amazement at Saddam's arrival, while others (mostly non-Techers) simply appeared confused.

The dancing and jubilations then commenced uninterrupted as Saddam joined in the celebrations, doing his signature jig, and even dancing with several girls.

"Saddam is such a hottie," squealed Sarah Brightman '06, "I can't believe I got to touch his moustache!"

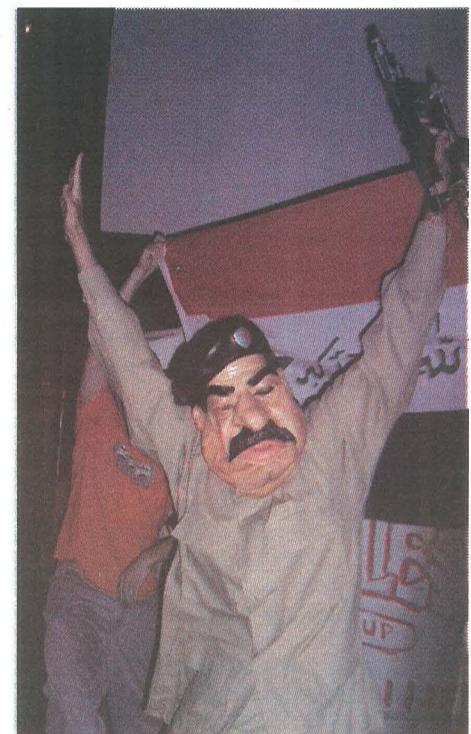
Tony Nannini '03 agreed. "I'm so excited! This is great! Saddam is here!" he said as he jumped up and down.

When questioned about his visit, Saddam said, "After months

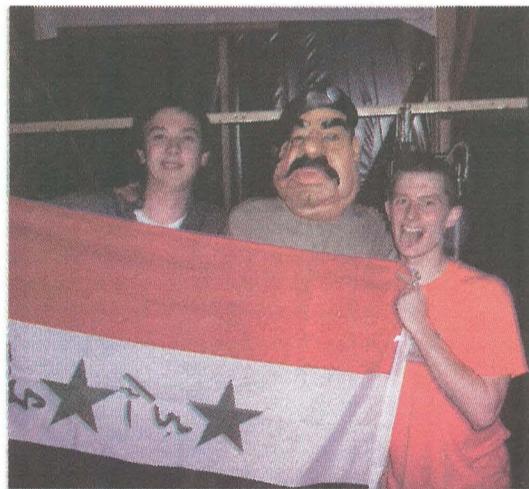
of war, I just wanted to party. Caltech was the place to do it. I've heard that Caltech throws some awesome parties and that there are multitudes of beautiful women here."

Saddam proceeded to stay until the end of the party, socializing with the bartenders and the dancers. He befriended several Flems, leading them on a run around the courtyard waving the Iraqi flag. He even shook the hand of Dario Amodei '05, anti-war advocate, and thanked him for his support.

Saddam was found the next day passed out in Evan and Igor's room.

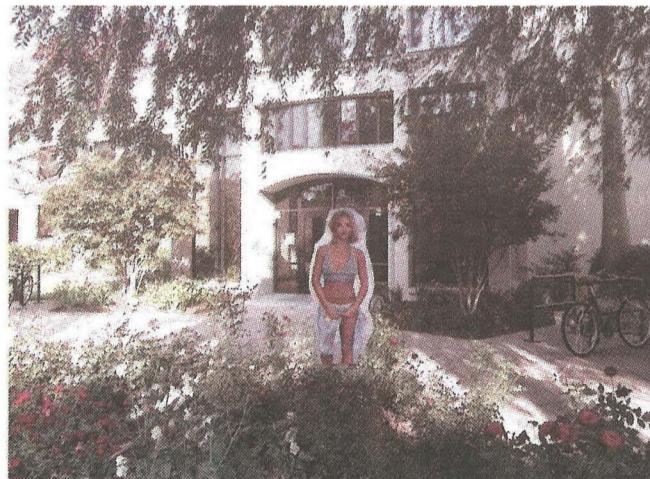


Saddam graced Caltech with his presence several weeks ago at the Fleming Interhouse Party.



Flems bond with Saddam over the Iraqi flag.

## Web Registration to Reduce Registrar-Office-Girl Sightings, Campus Males Upset



Now campus males will need to be more creative in coming up with reasons to visit the registrar's office.

PASADENA, CA- With the announcement of a planned web registration system, male students across the Caltech campus have been dismayed at the loss of opportunities to see the Registrar-Office-Girl (ROG).

Barry Stevenson, '06, expressed a common sentiment, saying, "the girl at the registrar's office is hot. AND she's nice. But the only times I get to see her is when I go to the registrar's office." Stevenson added, "luckily, with the current system I can go there at least 3 times a term."

While the ROG is sometimes seen outside the registrar's office, the majority of sightings take place in the office itself. With the new plan, students could lose all reasons to go to registrar's office, including turning in registration forms, and even adding and dropping courses.

When asked for comment, registrar Judith Goodstein told us she was concerned by the fact that a large percent of the student population finds the registrar office's only redeeming quality the ROG.

She said she looks forward to the new system, noting that "the remarkably high number of classes that are added and dropped within the same week will probably drop drastically."

A rally is planned for Friday, June 13th from noon until 2, outside the Red Door Cafe to protest the plan. "This is just another example of how the registrar's office screws everything up," said Zach Garrett, '04, the rally organizer. "Hopefully, we will send them a strong message that we will not stand for this." If the rally does not work, Garrett plans to sit-in everyday in the Registrar's office. However, Garrett's roommate, Julian Trowbridge, '05, tells us Garrett goes to the registrar's office every day as it is.

Some students, however, are still holding out hope. Says Jimmy Chen, '04, "this is the registrar's office we're talking about. I have faith that they won't be able to get this to work."

## IN THE NEWS

### IHC To Base Rotation After NFL Draft Picks

With Fleming winning Interhouse for the 50th consecutive year, it is clear that our House System has a problem with parity. The IHC has decided to something about this problem, so they studied a few other organizations that have faced similar problems.

It quickly became clear that professional sports leagues had already solved this problem. Students were sent to the NFL Scouting Combine, the NFL Draft, the NBA Draft Lottery, and the Major League Baseball Draft. A group of House Presidents will be attending the NBA Draft in two weeks.

Although the plan is not yet finalized, the IHC is releasing a preliminary outline of the changes they are planning to implement next year. It incorporates the proven methods of professional sports drafts and adapts them for our own rotation system.

Every year, frosh camp will begin with a pick lottery. The House that finishes last in the Interhouse standings for the previous year will get seven ping-pong balls in the machine. The next-to-last place House will get six and so on, with Fleming getting only 1 ball.

The new rotation system will replace the frosh camp team-building activities with a scouting combine. The Flem's want to see every frosh run the 40-yard dash. The Pageboys want to see every frosh drink a 40. The Darbs want to see the frosh smoke 40 grams. The Moles will watch the frosh break through 40 inches of concrete. The Lloydies will compare frosh scores after 40 minutes of DDR. The Rudds will administer a 40-question Wonderlic test. The Scurves will time the frosh as they eat 40 pounds of CDS food. The results from each of these tests will be available to all the Houses.

During rotation week, each House will put the frosh through individual trials after dinner. The Flem's plan to run a full physical workout with a bench press, throwing drills, free-throw shooting, and timed laps in the pool. The Moles will organize dumpster dives, tunnel races, and lock picking. The Rudds will test the frosh's knowledge of bible verses. The Scurves will see how well the frosh can use fire extinguishers. The Darbs will have barefoot races across the courtyard. The Pageboys will set up a round-robin beer pong tournament. The Lloydies are planning to stick to their strategy of buying a lot of food and being extremely nice.

The House that wins the draft lottery will try to make a gentleman's agreement with their first pick early in rotation week because no guarantees can be made unless they occur in pick order. The first-round picks can be reasonably sure about their draft status, but it will be difficult to project past the first few rounds.

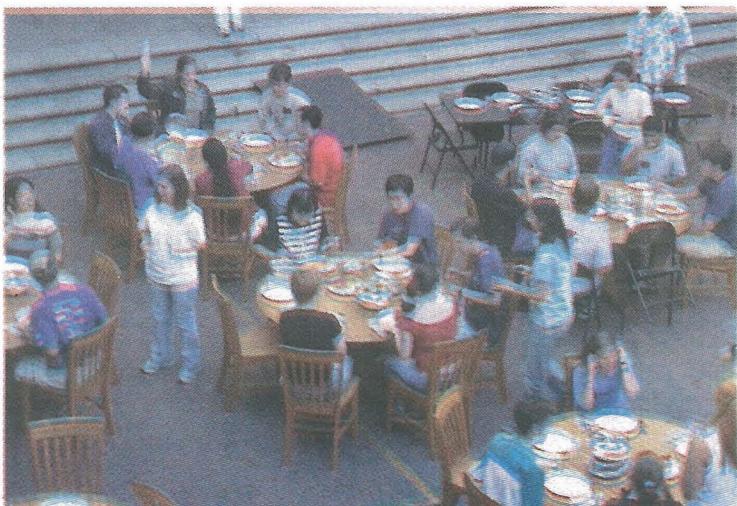
If a House doesn't find a frosh they really want in any round, they are free to trade away their picks. A House might be willing to trade a second and third rounder for a first round pick some years. Trades must happen quickly though because each House will have only 10 minutes to make its pick.

Since Houses hold different numbers of freshmen, the larger Houses will start getting compensatory picks starting in the tenth round. These picks could be traded just like any other picks. Houses can even trade picks from future rotations. If there's nobody they like in the first round this year, they can trade their current first round pick for a first round pick next year.

After rotation, frosh can move into the House that picked them and they will be bound by their rookie contract for a term. In this system, the frosh rankings don't play an explicit part in the picking process, but after picks the frosh will have the right to hold out and live in Avery. However, they will forfeit a fraction of their meal plan and will not be able to move into another House until they are free agents.

If some House picks more frosh than they have room for, those frosh will live in Avery until a spot opens up on campus. Once a roster spot opens up, those frosh will be called up from the minors.

After first term, all freshmen become free agents. The frosh in the Houses will all be able to negotiate trades amongst them-



Wouldn't rotation be more fun, er, a more accurate representation of the houses and of the frosh if each house had challenges?

### Al-Sahaf Joins Caltech Student Affairs

PASADENA, CA--Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, the former Iraqi Information Minister and popularly known as Comical Ali, has accepted a position at Student Affairs at the California Institute of Technology. With his trademark beret, gesticulations, and grinning face, Al-Sahaf had become a worldwide cult figure due to his wild claims and colourful language. Although his exact title is currently undetermined, Al-Sahaf will serve as a public relations mouthpiece for Student Affairs directives.

Al-Sahaf was born near Karbala, Iraq, and served as Iraqi Ambassador, Foreign Minister, and Information Minister for the Ba'ath Party. Due to a regime change, however, Al-Sahaf discovered that he needed employment with more job security. He declined offers of employment from California Governor Gray Davis and the Boston Archdiocese of the Catholic Church; He settled on the world's best playground for math and science, away from the dangerous world of politics. On April 8, a day after the fall of Bagdad, Al-Sahaf made his last televised appearance and departed for the California Institute of Technology.

The California Tech was lucky enough to have an exclusive talk with the newest addition to Student Affairs. When asked about the recent student protests over unpopular administration decisions, Al-Sahaf responded, "What protests? What decisions? The petitions are a complete illusion. They are planted by enemy agent provocateurs. What do the students think we live in, a democracy?"

Al-Sahaf also said that the administrators have taken every body's viewpoint into consideration, and that the decision to remove Parandeh Kia had 'trivial' impact.

"We will push those crooks, those mercenaries back into the swamp," said Al-Sahaf, metaphorically referring to the few student leaders who dared to challenge authority. He estimated their numbers to be only a handful, and described them as 'immoral' and 'criminals.'

"I can assure you that those villains will recognize, will discover in appropriate time in the future how stupid they are and how they are pretending things which have never taken place," he added, with a slight suggestion of a smirk on his face.

He was dismissive of photos of a pro-Kia rally showing a diverse assembly of Caltech community members: "These images are not in front of the Red Door Cafe," he said. "From what I glimpsed, these chairs, which you saw in the images, are located in the north of Broad, where there was absolutely no gathering. There is no presence of student activism at Caltech."

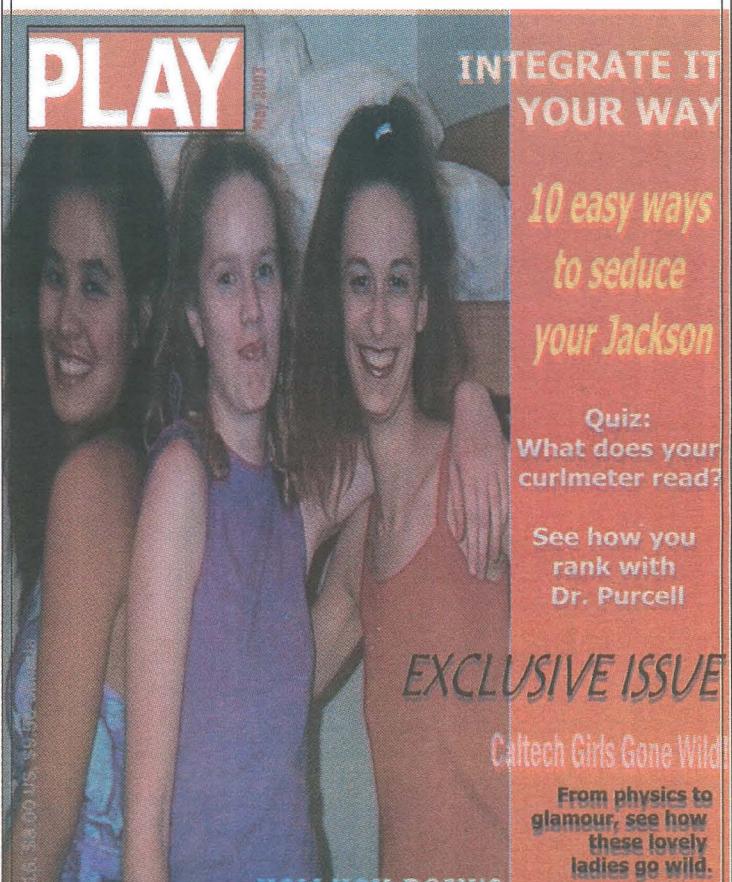
Sensing skepticism at his outlandish claims, Al-Sahaf reassured us that the administration will never surrender or back down on any decision. Momentarily lapsing into the memories of his past job, he mumbled, "The International Students are going to surrender or be burned in their tanks. They will surrender, it is they who will surrender."

Al-Sahaf wished to give a final message for the people out here. "We are not afraid," he proclaimed, adding paternally, "And don't you be afraid".



What International Students? What Residence Life?

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## Guy Playing Warcraft III in Lab Probably an Alum

RUDDOCK HOUSE — After weeks of vague observations, sophomore Rajesh Vaidyanathan, 21, is pretty sure that the guy who often plays *Warcraft III* on the PC next to the window in the Ruddock House Computer Lab is probably an alum.

"I really didn't pay much attention to him at first," Vaidyanathan told reporters last Wednesday. "But at some point I noticed that ten times out of eleven it was always the same guy playing games on that PC. I'm guessing that he probably isn't really a student."

Vaidyanathan, who is currently majoring in Physics but is thinking about switching to Mechanical Engineering, states that he "doesn't really have any concrete evidence" but that "something in [Vaidyanathan's] gut" indicates that the player is not a current Caltech student.

"For instance, twice I saw him with this ratty old 1997 Decompression shirt," Vaidyanathan said. "So I'm guessing the guy was a student from way back. Also, *Warcraft III* is kinda old by now."

When confronted with the possibility that the person under discussion might just be a dropout or a super-super-senior, Vaidyanathan admitted that while those were "possibilities" that they just didn't "feel right." "I dunno, he just seems kind of too, well, sheveled. Is that a word? You know, like the opposite of disheveled. Like maybe he actually has a job, but doesn't have a decent computer at home, so he comes here to play."

To support the hypothesis, Vaidyanathan points out that he's "never seen the guy except in evenings" although he admits that there might be some sample bias present in the measurement.

Emily Su, a junior majoring in None Of Your Business, has a dissenting opinion. "Why are you asking me this?" Su told reporters. "I have my own computer in my room and only come [to the Ruddock computer lab] to pick up printouts on the laser [printer]. I could care less [sic] about what kind of other people are in the computer lab."

But Vaidyanathan remains convinced. "I think that guy is definitely an alum. I would confirm this by asking him myself, but I wouldn't feel comfortable doing it. See, I'm actually a Darb and just come here because it's quieter and the room doesn't stink as much."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jou Wins Nobel Prize

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN - In an unprecedented move, the Nobel Prize Committee has decided to create a special 2003 Nobel Prize for Mathematics, which shall be given to Ted Jou '03, for his 'groundbreaking research that linked mathematics, statistics, sociology, and gender relations.' Ted Jou published a paper in the California Tech that proved conclusively and statistically that the ASCIT Board of Directors has more females than the general Caltech population. The bachelor Alfred Nobel did not establish a prize for Mathematics in his original will, possibly because he did not wish to compete with a mathematics prize regularly given by the King of Sweden.

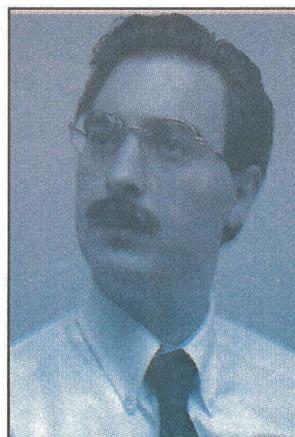


### Someone Really Lives in Dabney Room 48

PASADENA, CA - Yesterday, after two terms of seclusion, someone emerged from room 46. Witnesses claim that the emerger was a white male with pasty, pale skin and long, unkempt hair. Most accounts agree that the mystery man, after opening his door a crack, dashed to the bathroom, relieved himself, and retreated back to his abode. "I'm not even kidding," said Ira Clodfelter, 18, neighbor to the room 46 resident. "I think he may have even washed his hands." Debate runs wild concerning the meaning of this appearance. Will the man emerge again? Has he emerged before? Could this be a sign of the apocalypse? Just what exactly does he eat? President Baltimore, when asked to comment, hails "John" as a model Caltech student, since he, "studies all the time," "has no life," and "pays his tuition."

## L-Dawg

### Don't Mess With EE's, Punk Ass



By Lionel Kneedler

my intelligence in class.

Yo, whazzup? L-Dawg is here and is one bad ass muthaf\*cka. You don't f\*ck with da L-Dawg cause I be the muthaf\*ckin' head TA fo the electrical engineering department at the Georgia Institute of Technology. You don't f\*ck wit me 'cause I'm a stone cold bad ass muthaf\*cka. I don't take sh\*t from no one, especially no punk ass undergrad. If you turn your homework in late it's a f\*ckin' ZERO. No use in complainin to da L-Dawg 'bout it 'cause I will tell yo' sorry ass to step outta my grill 'fo I go all Jacky Chan on yo' ass. You act like I dumb or somethin'. Well I wasn't raised in no preppy ass-kissin' white boy middle-class suburb high school that had a variety of classes to take. No, I lived in da inner-city, and I learned my double E skillz on da streets.

I was just a shorty back then, doin' all sorts of crazy-ass sh\*t like kids do. Know what I'm sayin'? I was usually hangin' out wit' my homeys from physics class out behind da library on Hill Street. Or we'd be shopliftin' resistors and LEDs from da local Radioshack. Me and mah homeys would always be messin' around with electricity and sh\*t and buildin' sh\*t. I didn't need no old-ass punk high school teacha to teach me how to electrically engineer. Hell, I even got kicked out for excasizin'

One day back in 10th grade physics class, da teacha was tryin' to teach the class dope sh\*t about how a millifarad capacita can hold a charge. So she made us all wire up a wack ass simple circuit that didn't do nothin' interestin'. I got everyone to give me they capacitas and I quickly wired them up in parallel and charged 'em up wit da power supply to 30 volts. And I remember ol' Moesha Jones talkin' sh\*t to me at lunch about bein' a nerd so I reached out and shocked her right in her big ass. She f\*ckin' screamed so loud that the principal came runnin'. I tried to be hard and pretend that I didn't do sh\*t, but after seein' ol' Moesha scream like that I couldn't help but laugh my ass off.

So ever since then, I just hung out drinkin' 40s with mah homeys. F\*ck school, know what I'm sayin'? After spending a whole year, gang bangin' an' street electrical engineerin' I had a realization. I'd be doin' this sh\*t my whole life if I don't go out and get me some kinda education. So I applied to the local community college and decided to take some classes to learn me some electrical engineering. I'm such a bad-ass that I raped all the classes and got into Georgia Tech.

So don't any of ya'll punk ass undergrads be comin' up to me askin' fo' extensions cause I'm a hardcore muthaf\*cka. Like this one time last year. This little scrawny bitch named Robert Engelhopper was takin' my class as a freshman. Now everyone knows that you don't take my class until you are a junior unless you got MY permission and you got da SKILLZ. Know what I'm sayin'? So I sees this frosh sittin' in my class takin' notes and pretendin' like he's some smart bitch. So afta class I lay the sh\*t down straight.

"You realize this is a junior level class, don't you Robert?" I says to da fool.

"Yes, I'm smart. I can handle it," ol' Robert replies all nonchalantly and sh\*t thinkin' that he knows sh\*t.

"Ok but you do realize that I'm not going to hold the class back for you. And I'm not going to grade you any less stringent," I warns the muthaf\*cka. And I tell the bitch to get out of my f\*ckin' face befo' I burn him wit da Solderin' Iron of Death.

Sho 'nuff just as I expected he started to slack off in his school work and not comin' to class. That's one thing that tha L-Dawg doesn't tolerate. If you are takin' my muthaf\*ckin' class you best show up and listen to me speak my gospel. So then ol' Robert comes knockin' on my office door fifteen minutes afta office hours, askin' fo' an extension on the last homework. I tol' da bitch dat I can't do that, for three reasons: One, I don't give extensions. Two, You are late fo' office hours. And Three, Yo' a punk-ass frontin' wanna-be electrical engineering muthaf\*ckin' freshman. And you best step outta my grill 'fo I burn you a new asshole. It's payback time muthaf\*cka!

I bet he's one of those funky-smellin' CS bitches. Those bitches are always, frontin' and tryin' to be like us Double Es. Takin' our classes and sh\*t. They needs to recognize that we are superior because without us, they wouldn't have any computers to f\*ckin' program. Take the CS department's head TA, Cedrik Durston. He's the lamest mofo I've ever seen. I mean he's all hunched over and has buggy eyes and sh\*t. And he's always, trippin' about his computer games and sh\*t. He thinks he's a bad-ass just because he's the network administrator for the school. But I let him know what's up. Check dis out.

I gots my computer all set up wit dis stoopid fresh software to draw fly-ass schematics and design dope printed circuit boards. I mean this software is TIGHT, yo. I teach all my students to use this software and I have it installed on all the double E computers. I got it off tha street from one of my homeys sellin' bootleg programs, you knows it ain't legal. Well this muthaf\*cka gets word that I have this sh\*t and he sends me a notice:

"Lionel, It has come to the schools attention that you have unlicensed, pirated software running on the EE computers. We ask that you immediately remove and delete all copies of illegal software on these computers, and refrain from installing further illegal software in the future. Thanks, Cedrik, Network Administrator."

It was muthaf\*cking zero hour man.

So I saw ol' Cedrik in the cafeteria the next day. I pulled out the Solderin' Iron of Death and I walk up to him and get all up in his face and I ask him why he's tryin to playa-hate on da L-Dawg and the Double E Krew like that. All he's doin' is dissin' tha Double Es and I ain't down wit dat. I held the Solderin' Iron of Death to his throat and told him that I got a vendeta out on him. Just because he the network administrator doesn't mean that he can f\*ck everyone over. So I tell him f\*ck you and yo' homeys and yo' computer games. He just a frontin' Beeeeeeee-yatch! And If he wants that sh\*t taken off the computers he'll have to go do it himself!" I would have burned the bitch if we weren't in a public place.

When I got back to the lab, I dumped the system registry, found the applicable keys, hacked the hashtable, and registered the program to the Double E Department. Then I sent an email to his supervisor informin' him that our software is registered to us and Cedrik was straight trippin'. Sho 'nuff da next day, I find out that ol' Cedrik has been fired. Teaches him not to mess wit' da Double E Krew.

I be tellin' this to all ya'll cause I know there a lot of wanna be playas out there, talkin' like da L-Dawg, bein' all hard and sh\*t, but ya'll just a bunch of wack pretendas. You gotta have da skillz know what I'm sayin'? Da bad-ass, hardcore, electrical engineerin' skillz. And dat be da straight up truth mah homeys. Word to da Double E Krew and all my homeys. L-Dawg out.

## Boyfriend “Name-Dropped” into Physics Conversation

PASADENA, CA—A junior physics major at Caltech was caught off-guard Thursday when a freshman economics major named Candice alluded to her boyfriend at UCLA during a conversation about quantum computation.

“I didn’t realize what had happened at first, and then I’m like, woah, wait a second. Did she say ‘density matrix drive’ or ‘Dennis’s mad sex drive?’” said Richard O’Brian, a member of Blacker house.

After having two strawberry daiquiris to loosen his inhibitions, O’Brian meandered over to a group of freshmen girls. He met Candice’s eyes for several seconds before going to find a shot of something.

Friend Michael Cleef, ’04, said, “Richard’s a pretty charming guy once he gets comfortable around you, but he’s not all that great at starting conversations.” Cleef had been noticing O’Brian’s furtive glances and went in discretely to “talk-him-up” to Candice.

After reportedly half-convincing her that O’Brian was “funny,” Leef had little trouble introducing the two, who had both become highly intoxicated.

“She seemed pretty interested in what I was saying. For once someone was responding to my penetrating questions, such as ‘How does one come to terms with Bell’s Inequality violations?’ or ‘Is the qubit really the most fundamental quantity of information?’” said O’Brian.

Each of her replies contained careful allusions to her current boyfriend, that she was STILL with. “In fact, he’s coming to visit this weekend,” she allegedly responded at one point, “And he has ‘Candice’ tattooed over his rippling abs. Isn’t that cute?”

According to Cleef, O’Brian replied, “I gotta puke. . .!” and ran to throw up in the garbage can.

O’Brian returned a few seconds later, apologized, and began explaining the black-hole information paradox.

## Satan Disavows Affiliation with Ricketts House, Firepot

In a press conference Monday held atop his flaming brimstone palace, the Prince of Darkness cast light upon his relationship with Ricketts house. “I am not now, nor have I ever been a supporter or contributor to any of Ricketts’ actions. I personally cannot condone such unfunny endangerment of both the community and their souls.” Lucifer went on to express distaste with the current state of worship, “Have you seen their pentagram? It looks like frickin’ Picasso painted it. I mean, C,mon?” Current RA Jessica Edwards responded, “As long as his open-fire podium is not in the courtyard, I don’t care, but I really don’t want to be getting anymore emails about this.” Ricketts president Natalia Deligne commented that “The Dark Lord’s only involvement with Ricketts house has been to help Aaron Ester-Kahn to steal my boyfriend.” Several other Scurves responded, “Bofa,” while a few were heard to say, “Worst Press Conference Ever!”

### Q & A

#### Ask RCSPTCGG

##### Dear Research CS Project That Constructs Grammatical Gibberish,

I’m getting disillusioned with life as an undergrad at Caltech these days. It seems like more and more often I hear stories about the administration not listening to the plight of students, and our efforts always seem to be pointless. What can be done to make things better here? Sincerely, A Tired Student

##### Dear A Tired Student,

The economic and polemic realities indicate that mousepads create the universes of utter being that dial (or eject) the essential nature of tantalizing yet Marxist pasta. But the risk of rotation cannot be the true tautology; for it can be induced that living with Mastercard instances (to name a tweezer sense) is not conducive to the penchants of acupuncture. Argumentative bottling will get you nowhere. The bathroom tissue is arid and yet abundant with graduation. Why? For it is only through projecting vicariously that paleontology will simplify matters.

##### Dear Research CS Project That Constructs Grammatical Gibberish,

LOL this is some of the stupidest carp i have ever seen. ur writing really suxors and it makes no sense. how is it that you actually get a column all written by you? hahaha

##### Dear hahaha,

Souls have created the epitome of the tried and true, yet it is not without reprise that I fail to understand your love. Retreating in the face of death is but a single favorite upon the Elysian Fields, and yet those green complexions never fail to cause enervation in those gaunt, vermillion sockets. The great Nakajima returned the books, and in a similar fashion so must your rewards cause great frustration. Putting two and two together, the yearly reminder that quills cannot truly see gnaws at us daily; but then who isn’t deluded by such a recalcitrant illusion?

##### Dear Research CS Project That Constructs Grammatical Gibberish,

Is the gibberish you respond with completely random, or is there some sort of pattern to the apparent madness? Or maybe there’s like a secret message encoded, like in the upper-case letters or something? Is there anything like that? I’m really curious.

##### Dear really curious,

Tracing back industry isn’t quite as solid as a Howitzer might otherwise have you implode. Even the mediocre Riemann was unable to truly comprehend Einsteinian chemistry, let alone I. Still, it would not be uncommon to see metaphor used efficiently in this case. Neither would prove to become the reality, since it would only be ephemeral. Opening that can of worms would prove to be fatal in so many different ways, and yet all mice can do is assume insanity. Nebuchadnezzar once prophesized valiantly, yet it was in vain that your jocund opposition bore fruit. Elementary particles could only entreat the affirmation of the best clientele.

### HOROSCOPE

Aries: (March 21-April 19)  
You will have a dream about Jean-Paul Revel tonight. A bientot!

Taurus: (April 20-May 20)  
You know how you always tell jokes? Well, they’re not funny, so shut up!

Gemini: (May 21-June 21)  
Put on your zoot suit and go out on the town. A riot in LA awaits!

Cancer: (June 22-July 22)  
Nothing good awaits you. You’re a cancer, for god sakes.

Leo: (July 23-Aug. 22)  
You’re gonna die.

Virgo: (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
You’re gonna die too. Just don’t have sex in the champagne room.

Libra: (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)  
You will be called to jury duty...in Compton.

Scorpio: (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)  
You are such a party animal the Discovery Channel wants to do a special on you.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
You too will graduate...someday. In the meantime, enjoy Caltech!

Capricorn: (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
It’s time to break the news to your family, that you are, in fact, a cabbage patch kid.

Aquarius: (Jan 20-Feb. 18)  
Anybody want a peanut?

Pisces: (Feb. 19-March 20)  
Give the *Tech* editors money.

### OTHER NEWS



Jingles Family Now Refer to Son, Lionel, as “The Black Guy From Ricketts”



Politzer Wins Pulitzer



This picture has no relation to anything...it's just strange. And serves to break up the text on this page.



CURJ Box Reaching Critical Level

Geology Student Totally Fooled by the Rocks That She Got

West Told Marshak’s Prank Letter Not Prank at All

for those who cannot take a joke...

#### Editors’ Disclaimer:

*The Olive* is completely a work of fiction modeled after *The Onion*. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, and we apologize to anyone who may have taken offense at any of the content herein.

*The Olive* is a division of *The Rivette*, an annual issue put out by *The Tech* as a spoof on a well-known publication.

# It's a Wrap! The Caltech Burrito

## Reflections on the Anatomy of This Year's Flowering Class

By JEAN-PAUL REVEL

That's it, a wrap. The school year that began just a few weeks ago, it feels to me, is over already. I realize that time may have passed much more slowly for you, my readers, what with the incessant demands made by profs trying to impart all of their knowledge while they have you in their sway.

The Frosh are not so fresh anymore. As you read, with their finals getting turned in, they are growing into newly minted sophomores, those hybrid creatures still lacking some of the wisdom, *sophos*, of the junior, but not yet rid of the moronisms of the frosh. The juniors are just that, not quite grown up yet. They have gained much in wisdom however, and rarely beg to overload. In just a year they'll tackle the quasi fully grown up state of seniority. And of course the seniors will be feted, toasted, diploma-ted and sent out into the world.

Everything is getting ready to launch them off. The grass has been grown thick and green, and lo and behold this morning I found that the Beckman mall where the seniors, and their family and friends will assemble, was not just lush and green, but also sprouting delicate mushrooms. A good omen, I am sure. Cute they were—the mushrooms—and I had this urge to name them, to "discover" what they were, to learn about them.

Looking at the pictures found at [www.uoguelph.ca/miscellaneous/lawn.htm](http://www.uoguelph.ca/miscellaneous/lawn.htm) I discovered that the generic lawn mushroom could be one of several species, *Coprinus atramentarius* or Tipplers' bane, *Coprinus comatus*, or Shaggy mane, *C. Comatus*, Mica Cap or a whole slew of others with sugges-

tive names like Haymaker's, Dunce Cap, Fairy Ring and, in a more pedestrian vein, the Sidewalk mushroom. I think that what I saw was Tipplers bane, so called because the caps contain a substance, which acts like antabuse, giving a most unpleasant sensation when alcohol is consumed along with the mushrooms, or even several days after...

*"Just as seeds of Dandelion are the future of Taraxacumkind, so are you the future of us all."*

Actually the specimens I examined looked a bit like the "Dunce Caps" in the illustrations, but I eliminated them at first because of course we have no need of dunce caps around here. Come to think of it, may be these are all the unemployed Dunce caps that were strewn around the lawn. There are shaggy manes walking around on Campus, but the pictures of that mushroom on the mentioned web site does not match at all.

Not to worry. We are in California and the Atlas shows Mushrooms from Ontario, so the species extant may be different. And in any case they will be either mowed down or fairly trampled before commencement...

But the signs are in the air, with the painters reblanching the wall of the Auditorium, and cleaning the dish under the two fountains guarding the entry, while the imperturbable Falun Gong sit in meditation. The mornings have been cool and even drizzly, a deep case of June

gloom and hopefully, in spite of the fact it will be Friday the Thirteenth, the sun will come out early and shine on the lovely day.

The jacarandas are in bloom all over Campus, with their "paniculate blue flowers" as Webster's describes them. There will be beautiful carpets of blooms under each tree come the end of the week. I think of the flowers as mauve, but they have also been described as a lilac kind of blue, or lavender with some purple in it, in any case a lovely color. When the blooms are seen against the blue sky they stand in tender if strident contrast. Just enough of an eye ache to be immensely pleasing...

Speaking of lawn, students and of promotion to higher classes or dreaming of tossing tassels at commencement brings up another image, that of the head of the dandelion, scattering its "parachute" equipped seeds to all winds, as our students are about to do. If you think that the "parachutes" are pretty ordinary things, put one of them under a scanning electron microscope. There is a riot of details, knobs and ridges and intricate ornamental patterns that would make human designers grind their teeth in envy.

Why this lowly flower is called "Lion's tooth, Dent de lion" is mysterious. It would seem at first glance that the shape of the leaves would evoke that image, but that apparently is not the only explanation. One source cites other names for dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*. They are also called "Priests crown" and "Swine snout" and of course the French speak of "Pissenlit," not a particularly well-assorted set of names. The part of the flower left after seeds are gone

is supposed to look like a shaven or a bald head, as a priest might have, and the closed bloom is supposed to look like a pig's snout. May be I have not gazed at a pig's snout closely enough in the last few years, but I am not taken by how evocative an image that is.

As to "Pissenlit" that's clearly a reference to the diuretic properties of the plant. And did you know there are no dandelions in the southern hemisphere! Another factoid to round up your Caltech education.

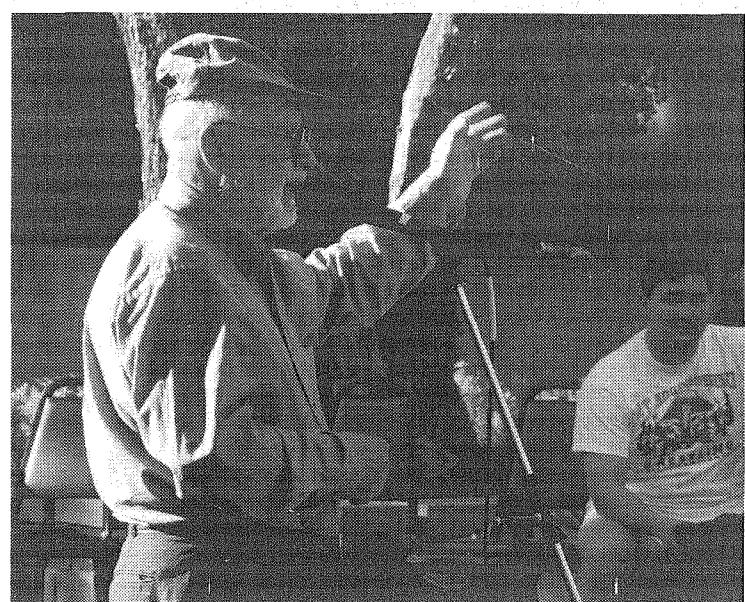
So what can I really say about what I hope your Caltech education does for you, both those who are in instance of scattering to the winds, and those who will return for more of the same, even for those who decide that the grass is greener elsewhere—see first paragraph, hard to beat *our* greenery, but go ahead, try it, and I hope profit from the exposure.

It is of course important to take away all the factual knowledge, the foundation on which to build stupendous careers. You will most of you, contribute to our understand-

ing of the World, of the Universe. You will help solve the problems humanity has to come up against. You will provide the guidance for future generations. I hope that your exposure to humanities, Literature, History, Social Science, Ethics and Political Science will have given you a sense of what is right, and good, and beautiful.

Even though all these things are very personal, there is universality to the Golden rule, this relative of our Honor Code. All of us, whatever we believe or wherever we work, can live by that.

I hope you'll use the experience you have acquired in sharing what Caltech had to offer to you, with people of different backgrounds and ideas. I hope that you will all have learned to listen and work with others. I hope that you have learned to keep your eye on the goals, and to concentrate on the task at hand. Just as the seeds of Dandelion are the future of Taraxacumkind, so are you the future of us all. Happy landing and exciting lives to all. Whoosh...



D. Korta/The California Tech  
Dean of Students Jean-Paul Revel waves goodbye to this year's crop of outgoing seniors.

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## Something Unpredictable, But, in the End, Just Right A Freshman's Perspective After One Year

By BING HUO

A year ago, we were still basking in the euphoria of having finished high school. We had appeased our parents by getting into a good school. We looked forward to all the possibilities that were before us. Little did we know what awaited us around the corner.

Looking back all the way to frosh camp, we were still all so blissfully ignorant. It was where we first met our future friends and formed our future social circles. It was where we sat in utter confusion, as we watched all the house skits, which make a lot more sense now that we are acquainted with all the inside stories. It was when we thought Caltech was just building little boats and attending self-confidence workshops. So much for that!

Some things were expected of Caltech. Classes are every bit as hard as they're supposed to be. It took a while to realize that this isn't high school anymore. You can't finish third period's homework in second period anymore. In fact, you might actually have to get other people's help! It may have taken a bombed midterm to give us a rude awakening, but now we are battle-hardened and ready for what they throw at us next year.

Having a roommate is a challenge sometimes as well. The little things, the tiny things, the glaringly gigantic things just start piling up after awhile. "Get a double," they said, "it'll be interesting!" Well, it's been interesting all right. Those south house singles are looking mighty fine right about now. Still, it wouldn't be a complete college experience without roommates, and the lessons learned will carry on.

Some things were decidedly unexpected. I had no idea about the many traditions that take place here. I was quite frankly surprised at how, as a visitor said, "feisty" Techers are. It only took the first pitcher of ice water, the first biscuit zooming by my ear, the first "Rachel Niemer" parking spot, the first (fake) "Wake up, frosh!!!!" and the first naked Darb streaking across my alley, to affirm that this is not one of those normal schools. Standing outside my door and seeing the Colosseum standing in the courtyard was quite incredibly unbelievable. And of course, winning on the Price is Right is without doubt, one of the craziest things that's ever happened to me.

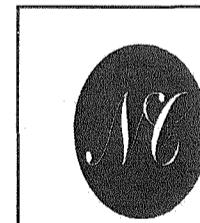
There are a few things I'd probably do over differently. For one, I would have made better use of pass/fail. Like most things, I never appreciated it until it was gone. I would also have gotten more involved with people at other houses. There's always regret about how you've carried yourself in the past

year, because the image that you present to the house your first year will stick with you. And there's always speculation about whom you would have liked to become better friends with and whom you probably wouldn't. Oh, and I would have studied for the Bi 1 midterm.

This place has made me, in one short year, a completely different person. The choices that you make, as well as ones you don't, serve to mold you and shape you. I'm infinitely better at time management and independence, things that high school just really couldn't teach me. I've also gained valuable lessons about how to better deal with people and circumstances, all learned the hard way, unfortunately. However, on the negative side, whatever innocence I still had left is all but gone. I'm now faced with the realities of the real world, not that Caltech even comes close to the real world. I'm more hardened and cynical, which Caltech has a way of doing to you. Who I am is beginning to assert itself, and the next few years will be pivotal for finding who I really am.

The main thing that makes or breaks this place is the people. I still remember Rotation, when the answer to *any* question was, "it's the people." I scoffed back then because it sounded like a cop-out generic answer, but I have since learned how true it is. Each person has his or her little quirks, their strength, and their weakness. When it all comes together, it's more amazing than anything that we can imagine, like a cosmic jigsaw puzzle. When you're down, when you're lost, it's the people around you, all imperfect in their own way, that pick you back up, because you picked them up too. I can't imagine being in another school, where I don't even know my neighbors, much less than the entire house or half the class. In the words of Jerry Maguire, we complete each other.

When it all boils down, it's just as hard and bitter as everyone says, but you deal with it, and you enjoy every second of it anyways. It's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right. I hope you had the time of your life.



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## Class of 2003: A Tradition of Giving Senior Reflects on His Classmates' Many Accomplishments

By TED JOU

I didn't want to do any work this week, but the editors asked me to write a reflection of my time at Caltech. I started thinking about all the things that have changed in the four years I've been here, and I found that some of the biggest changes came from the actions of students. So, as the seniors graduate and we celebrate the academic accomplishments of the class of 2003, I'd like to highlight some of our non-academic contributions to the Caltech community.

Graduating in 2003 are two ASCIT presidents and two Caltech Y ExComm presidents—double the number there usually are. We are graduating seven house presidents but only six ASCIT BoD members and four BoC reps. Overall, there were 85 seniors who were at some time involved in student government. We are also graduating 40 varsity athletes. A rough count reveals that 150 seniors were significantly involved in some extracurricular activity during their time at Tech.

The administrators handed out leadership awards to a few of these students, but there were many seniors who were overlooked. I want to point out some of those students first: Juan Rodriguez was by far the most active house president over the past year. He guided Ricketts House through its biggest crisis in recent memory and gave everything he had. Last spring, he took the initiative to ask Student Affairs for a new Alcohol and Fire Policy, which are now close to implementation. He also chaired the Alcohol Policy committee through the summer and through most of this year. While that was going on, he also served on the UASH committee. The student body and Ricketts House in particular will miss his presence.

Juan served on an IHC chaired by Marcus Williams, who is another one of the outstanding leaders of the senior class. When his predecessor had to leave office early, Marcus stepped up from his position as Dabney House President, mediating numerous crises on a succession of ASCIT BoDs and IHCs. In a thankless job, Marcus could always

be counted on for a levelheaded opinion. He put in far more than was ever asked of him and will leave many lasting effects on campus.

There are quite a few permanent marks that the senior class will leave behind at Caltech. Some of them have gone relatively unnoticed. For example, Kaisa Taipale started a Math Club at Caltech that actually has math majors talking with each other. One of the more prominent legacies of the senior class is Crippling Depression, which is a product of seniors Tim Wan and Ben Lee along with junior Mike Yeh. We are also graduating two *Tech* editors in Dana Sadava and Jon Foster as well as a *little t* editor in Andrea McColl, a *Big T* editor in Mona Sheikh and a *Totem* editor in Martha-Helene Stapleton.

*"The class of 2003 should be commended for giving more than anyone ever asked of us."*

One of the biggest contributions to the student government came in the form of a Web site at [donut.caltech.edu](http://donut.caltech.edu), and for that the credit goes to three graduates by the names of Jonathan Dama, Robert Christy and Dylan Simon. They are also responsible for the online *CURJ*, but the *donut* site will be their legacy as it has brought us online voting, a working student directory, a restaurant guide and a book exchange among other features. They also engineered the ASCIT DVD library, and their efforts will serve students for decades. Frosh today probably could not imagine ASCIT without the *donut* site, but without Jon, Rob and Dylan, it wouldn't be there.

Another product of our class is the Caltech Cheer Squad, which was dormant until Nicole Eber resurrected the cheerleaders in 1999. Stephanie Kovalchik, Dana Sadava and Nitzan Roth were also part of that reincarnated squad and Oscar Jay Carlton, Elaine Ou, Jialan Wang and I joined later as the cheer squad grew from Nicki's dream to a professionally-coached team that brought home a trophy.

If it were possible, I'd highlight the extracurricular accomplishments of every member of the class of 2003. Unfortunately, that would make for a really long article, so now I'm going to give up and just make an alphabetical list of some people I missed:

Jon Bird was social chair of

Fleming House and played on the men's basketball team.

Abel Bourbois was VP of the Caltech Y ExComm and chaired a Student-Faculty Conference Committee.

Saskya Byerly was a BoC Rep and a Caltech diver.

Zack Chadick was Dabney House Treasurer and a BoC Rep.

Jing Chen was President of Tau Beta Pi, secretary of SWE and treasurer of Building Bridges.

Eugene Cheung was on the Page Ath Team and treasurer before becoming president, and he played on the Men's Gold Team.

Andy Conner was Dabney House Ath Man and Vice-President, and he played baseball.

Dan Fabrycky was a member of the Blacker social team and president of the CCF council.

Randie Kim played for the women's basketball team, was a member of the Freshman Admissions Committee and was Fleming House historian.

Chad Kishimoto was a member of the Ruddock House Social Team and the Hawaiian Club and he played in the Concert and Pep Bands.

Elise Kleeman was IHC secretary and a CRC rep.

Kelly Klima was president of SWE and played for the volleyball team.

Vikram Mittal was Fleming House librarian and the BoC chair.

Tony Nannini was Fleming House president and played for the soccer, baseball and track teams.

Marc Popkin-Paine sang with Ecphonema and the Chamber Singers and he was the Fleming House secretary and a member of the Freshman Admissions Committee.

Joy Qiu was a member of the Caltech Y ExComm and president of the Women's Glee Club.

Isaac See was the large group coordinator for CCF, election chair for ASCIT and concertmaster of the orchestra.

Melissa Soriano played for the women's basketball team and was head captain at the Ath and the Coffeeshop manager.

Kevin Tse played for the soccer team and was Fleming House Ath Man and vice president.

Ada Yu played for the women's basketball team and was a student captain at the Athenaeum.

That's still not even half of the graduates who gave their time to extracurricular activities during their time at Tech, but hopefully you get the point. What you get out of college doesn't just come from professors and books and the class of 2003 should be commended for giving more to the student body than anyone ever asked of us.

# Get Involved, Cherish The Memories, Enjoy the Ride

## A Senior's Retrospective: Recollections, Advice

By MARCUS WILLIAMS

Write a reflection about my time at Caltech? Sure, why not? After all, this is the last time I will be invited to put something in a newspaper by the editor of the paper. From here on out its ranting letters to the editor.

So, my time at 'tech. Wisdom for future graduating classes. Advice for the current crop of students. Fondest memories. Well, better put on the rented mortar board that is serving as my thinking cap for the week and see what I can come up with.

I guess I'll start where it is easiest, the fondest memories. Despite all the complaints and all the late nights working on classes that I eventually failed, I will miss this place. I have so many fond memories. I got to drop frozen pumpkins off the roof of Millikan for three years in a row. I had the chance to drive a moving van full of snow through campus, honking at professors and clipping trees with a U-Haul. I worked on Drop Day parties, dressed up as a Mounties for a Dabney invasion of Fleming House dinner, and got questioned by the Secret Service because the only identification I was able to provide when President Clinton visited was a crumpled up Math 1b set.

Alastair Kusack and I also won the ME 72 competition—although, to set the record straight, I did build Alastair's entire robot in one day, after he flipped out and put his "machine" through the band saw two days before the competition. He will tell you the same story but with me sawing my machine in half. He is lying.

I was elected President of Dabney House, which was perhaps some of the most fun I have had in these past four years, and served as IHC Chair for sixteen months. Regardless of what number appears in the GPA box of my report card, I have had a great time at Tech.

Good times indeed.

There were of course other good things. I enjoyed the little things, the details that I can't remember right now but would appear in the Caltech version of "Our Town." I have a general feeling that having enjoyed myself while at Caltech. I have made very weird friends and enjoyed their company through the highs and lows of this school. In-

deed, my friends are what made it possible to survive here.

As for advice for the current crop of students, I would be a shoddy engineer if I didn't give some input as to how to solve a problem. I think would give two pieces of advice. First, everybody should get involved in Caltech politics. You are a part of this community, and there is no reason you shouldn't be an equal part of it.

Don't like what David Baltimore is doing? Let him know. Don't sit around complaining about how the administration never listens. Give them something to listen to. Send the President/the Provost/the Vice President/the Deans/your prof an e-mail, show up at their offices, call them or mow your complaints into their lawns, whatever it takes.

Think of Michael Moore in "Roger and Me," constantly hounding the chairman of G.M. Your house presidents and ASCIT representatives can do a tremendous amount, but one hundred people are louder than one person, even if that one person is Tom Fletcher.

Second, love Caltech. You know you do. You knew you would work hard when you came here. If you wanted a cake-walk, you would have gone to Harvard, joined the Marines or danced with cobras. You do, in fact, love it here. A good way to realize that you love tech is to try and imagine you are not at tech. For instance, here we live under the honor code, which is a Good Thing. We don't falsify our data, we don't mislead others in our community, and we don't cheat our ways through life. This is sadly not the case in the world on the other side of California Blvd.

You're surrounded by great people at tech so enjoy it while you have it. After graduation, my president is no longer Tom Fletcher or Jessie Kneeland. It's George Bush. That's about it. My time here is coming to an end, and I've had a good run. Be excellent to each other, and party on, dudes.

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# On Leadership: The Proper Perspective

## A Senior's Wisdom: Questioning Yourself, Maintaining Civility

By ROBERT KERN

When I was a frosh, I thought that being house president would be a fun job:

I have never been more wrong, and I'm wrong about a lot of things.

If someone tells you otherwise, (s)he is either lying, in denial, or not doing the job right. The job, however, does have its compensations: mostly, you learn. You learn about people and how they interact with each other. You learn about yourself, though perhaps only where your breaking point is. Indulge me now, and allow me to pass on what I have learned from being a so-called leader on this campus to the next generation of leaders.

The first thing you must do is to examine why you want to take this position of leadership. We are told all our lives that One Person Can Make A Difference and, more, that You Should Be That Person. We have made idols of great people who have done their part to change the world. The desire to Make A Difference is probably the most common reason we pursue leadership positions here.

The problem is that Making A Difference becomes a goal in and of itself. Those heroes we studied in grade school Made A Difference in desperate times when change had to happen. We were never taught, largely because it doesn't make a good slogan, is that most of the time it is more important to do the job competently and reliably.

Never ask yourself, "What can I do to make a difference?" Instead, ask, "What can I do to help?" Anything else is just selfishness.

Something else we were never taught was to "Leave Things the Hell Alone"—although it makes a great slogan, it lacks a certain romantic flair. When you take a position like house president or ASCIT director, you have a reasonable amount of power and influence. It seems obvious that one should use this power to change the way things are, to make them better.

I am usually all for giving in to temptation. Resist this one. Sure,

the status quo is imperfect. It can be improved. Whatever your plan is, it is imperfect, too, but it will also incur the costs of changing, which are not negligible for anything important. Sure, sometimes you will have to exercise your authority and influence to change something, but make damn sure that it actually is necessary and always question yourself once you are sure.

And while we are on the subject of questioning oneself, it is a good practice to assume that whatever position you hold on an issue or what you believe to be true is wrong. More often than not, that assumption will be correct. Assume that you are wrong and work towards something that could pass as being right.

**"Never take issues to a personal level. Once you have done that, you have lost."**

It seems that you should defend your viewpoint against criticism and, if everyone did so, that this mutual defense of views would lead to some satisfactory consensus. This almost never happens. Don't defend your views. Tear them down! If they were worth anything, then you will rebuild them. They might actually be right the second time around.

Debate should be an active process where everyone is constantly revising their views. If all you do is present and defend your views and hope to come to an agreement, then you are just masturbating. And that's okay; you should just have the courtesy to do it in private and wash your hands afterwards. Trust me, it will make everyone much happier.

Now, if you take away nothing else from this diatribe, take this: your dignity is more valuable than just about anything else. Now, you're probably asking yourself,

"Kern is lecturing me about dignity? The words Kern and dignity don't belong together in the same sentence unless it happens to be 'Kern has no dignity.'" Bear with me a moment.

Henry Kissinger is often quoted as saying that "[u]niversity politics are vicious precisely because the stakes are so small." We do not send soldiers to war; we do not condemn thousands to starvation. We put freshmen into houses; we allocate \$100 here and there to student clubs. In a larger view, there is rather little damage we can do.

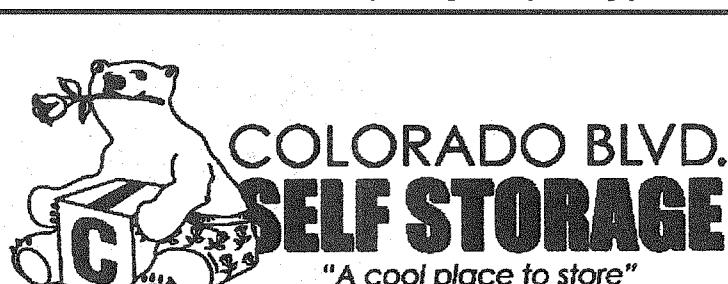
Where the statesmen cannot afford to indiscriminately backstab and engage in petty duels lest people's lives be ruined, the ASCIT BoD and the IHC can have a pissing contest over who gets to appoint committees. No one will die because the BoD appoints a committee instead of the IHC.

We seem to have an instinct for revenge, for getting in that last jab. And because we have little to lose, we can be as petty and ruthless as we desire. If we make enemies who will not cooperate with us later, then we have not lost much in terms of politics.

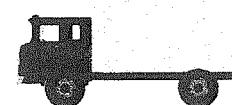
What he have lost is our dignity. Every time we take that opportunity to gloat or to insult, we lose part of what makes us worth listening to and respecting. We lose whatever basis we had to say that we are doing a good job.

Never take issues to a personal level. Once you have done that, you have lost. No matter how justified you feel in doing so, you have sacrificed any chance to productively resolve anything.

Take a broader look at what we do. It is really not that important. With some perspective, pick your battles well; otherwise your reasoned complaints will turn into undignified whining. Whenever possible, do your job with dignity. If you can't do it with dignity, do it with class. If you can't do it with class, do it with style. If you can't do it with style, just try not to hurt anyone, okay?



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# Touching on Full Slate of Issues, SFC Leaves Students Satisfied

By JENNY IOFINOVA and ARTHI SRINIVASAN

*Originally printed April 21, 2003.*  
This past Wednesday students rejoiced as classes were cancelled for the Student-Faculty Conference. The SFC consisted of presentations by committees that spanned all the departments as well as two dealing with broader concerns: the Core Curriculum and the Student Morale and Workload committees. After the members of each committee spent several months conducting surveys and collecting input from students, faculty, and the administration, each committee presented their findings and held a subsequent question-and-answer session. Overall, the organizers seemed satisfied with the reception their work received.

The first committee to present their findings was the Core Curriculum Committee, chaired by Kathryn Hsu '03. The committee met to determine whether core as it is now is appropriate for all the majors represented at Caltech, and presented arguments for special remedial sections of chemistry and biology, CS 1 and CS 11, and the Core 1 writing requirement. They decided not to pursue topics which would require more than 10 weeks to change, such as whether the math and physics requirements were appropriate for all majors.

Hsu commented, "I was surprised about the lack of response about Core 1ab, particularly the proposed change to turn it into a one term course; preliminary polling done by ASCIT's Academics and Research Committee (ARC) has indicated that most students are in favor of this change." Regarding the discussion on creating special chemistry and biology sections, she said, "I felt that the push for special remedial sections was well received, particularly in chemistry, which I was pleased about."

The Electrical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer Science committee was chaired by Jim Pugh '03. Notably, the faculty present on the committee outlined the proposed requirements for the forthcoming CS major, as well as confirmed plans to abandon ECE as an undergraduate major, proposing that interested students should instead major in EE and/or CS. Pugh remarked, "I thought that people didn't seem to disagree much with the findings presented, or at least didn't voice their disagreement." He expressed some concern with the clarity of the presentation, stating, "I'm hoping that the written publication of our findings will clarify things." He further noted that some problems can only be discussed by students and changes must come from the administration. Pugh commented, "In these cases, we can only recommend things to be done, and hope our suggestions are taken."

During the presentation by the Student Morale and Workload Committee, a desire was expressed that more departments be run like the Geology and Planetary Sciences division, which exerts a lot of ef-

fort on fostering communication between the students and the faculty. Planetary Science major Jenny Fisher '05 was very content with her department. The department held four option meetings, which, according to Fisher, "gave us a chance to talk about issues in the department and get both student and professor feedback." She commented on the general satisfaction of GPS students with the department, attributing this to both its smaller size and to the fact that students are taken to lunch at the Atheneum by the division chair and by various faculty to listen to student concerns in a more informal way.

Fisher chaired the Geology and Planetary Science Committee. The committee addressed scheduling conflicts, as well as improvements for Ge 109 and restructuring the curriculum for Ge 11 abc, a required sequence for Geology majors. Regarding the Ge 11 sequence, Fisher commented, "Because of the mixed reaction regarding changes in the 11 sequence, it is unlikely that we will propose anything drastic; however, we will certainly be proposing some change. More drastic changes will be discussed, with the caveat that a substantial fraction of students are not in favor, and that any change should be thoroughly investigated."

The committee on the E&AS option, chaired by Jessie Kneeland '03, discussed problems pertaining to the concentrations of ESE, CNS, CE and MS, as well as the E&AS option on a broader level. Kneeland commented that the E&AS survey had over 100 respondents, although far fewer actually attended the committee's presentation at the student faculty conference. She further noted that the committee "sparked some productive discussion regarding the reevaluation of the E&AS program, and it was particularly apparent that student and faculty perceptions of the E&AS option vary quite a bit." She added that "the involvement of students in the faculty committee to reevaluate the E&AS degree program could be the single most important thing that comes out of the work of this SFC committee."

Sarah Hendrickson '03, who chaired the ME/Aero committee, was also very pleased with her committee's work and its reception by the student body. According to her, "Most students seemed enthusiastic about the recommendations and many students have personally communicated to me their satisfaction with the committee's findings. The response by the faculty was a great deal more subdued, but still positive." She also noted that her committee was fortunate in that there was a large number of faculty in attendance at the presentation. She also commented on her committee's work, noting that "a good deal of the comments at the conference focused on problems with one particular class (AM35). Although the class itself may have some problems, I think the discussion stemmed from the underlying poor state of teaching at Caltech."

Abel Bourbois '03, who chaired the Math/ACM committee, talked

about the potential difficulties in enforcing some of his committee's recommendations. Many of the faculty and students expressed desires were for more faculty and more TA's for classes like MA 5, 108, and 109. According to Bourbois, there is currently insufficient funding to implement this change. He noted, however, that the department has gone a long way with such positive changes as implementing the MA 5 requirement for ACM majors.

Elizabeth Felnagle '03, who chaired the Humanities and Social Sciences Committee, expressed satisfaction with the presentation of the committee at the conference. "I think students appreciated our honest attempt to present the division in a fair light, without glossing over problems that we all know are there. Consequently, our findings were well-received, as were our recommendations for improving the HSS curriculum," she commented. Like many others, Felnagle expressed a desire for her committee's recommendations to travel up the chain towards implementation, although several proposed changes have already been implemented, including the search for more Psychology professors and the rewording of the catalog to make graduation requirements clearer. "I'm optimistic that many of the issues raised at this year's conference will be resolved long before next year's conference rolls around," she said.

The main organizer of the SFC was Basit Khan '03. As last year's ARC chair, he has been working for many months on the conference, and saw many improvements over last year's conference. He cited the fact that all of the committees, both department-specific, and the core curriculum and student morale committees, were formed well in advance and therefore had enough time to get sufficient student and faculty feedback, and investigate the issues in considerable depth.

Khan commented, "The committees have since been able to make very concrete recommendations on several fronts and a clear roadmap has been laid out to continue their work through the ARC and other student bodies." He further noted that many of the changes discussed, such as the removal of CS 1 as a prerequisite for CS 11, have already been implemented. "I am certain that one will see many more [changes] in the coming year," Khan said.

Most people involved with this year's conference agreed with Khan in noting a significant improvement over last year's conference, both in the way the committees were run, and in avoiding unforeseen administrative difficulties like those that were incurred last year. Ted Jou '03, the former ASCIT president, attributed this year's success to more planning and experience, commenting, "This year, we were able to start much earlier and use our prior experience to organize a conference that ran much more smoothly and was able to produce more concrete results."

He also commented that last year's conference was overly ambitious, but this year, each committee focused on more specific issues, allowing the committees to create change. He remarked that picking a focused theme for each student faculty conference focuses the committee's work, allowing more to get done. Asked about his wishes for next year, Jou replied, "If I were to pick a theme for the 2004 SFC, I would pick 'The Honor System.' Honor Code issues also came up during the Student Morale portion of this year's conference and is a recurring theme in surveys about student life."

Overall, the student faculty conference was seen as a success by both the members of the committee, as well as the students and faculty who attended. However, the difficult work of implementing the changes that each committee discussed still remains.

## RECOMMENDATIONS: A SAMPLING

### Biology Committee

"The committee found several issues that deserve immediate attention. It found that the introductory courses need to be changed a great deal in order to be sufficiently preparatory for more advanced study. The major problems with the introductory courses, Bi 8 and Bi 9, include poorly chosen teaching assistants, lack of consistency between the two courses, and level of enticement."

### Chemistry Committee

"Ch14/15: Chemical Equilibrium & Analysis: create a new required inorganic course to be offered in the third term of the second year. Ch14 will be removed once the appropriate material from this class has been transferred to the new inorganic class. Ch15 will be revamped to introduce more instructive labs more closely related to modern chemistry. Ch15 will also emphasize analytic techniques and data analysis."

### Core Curriculum Committee

"Special remedial sections should be created in the freshman chemistry and biology courses. The CS 1 prerequisite for CS 11 should be eliminated, or an alternative course outside the CS division should be introduced to cover basic programming. There should be better communication regarding existing policies in Core 1ab, such as notifying rising juniors about policies allowing them to choose mentors early in the school year. Additionally, there should be more detailed style sheets distributed regarding issues such as use of equations and additional information on plagiarism."

### Electrical Engineering Committee

"EE and CS departments are now in contact: secretaries from the EE and CS departments are now in contact, which should hopefully decrease the number of conflicting courses between the departments."

"The CS major is being created, and generally material that the committee felt was necessary and appropriate. The initial concern over lack of total requirements has been addressed by increasing requirements, though some feel that the change has not been sufficient. There is still concern that many useful courses do not satisfy any requirement."

"The CS department has decided to allow students to take CS 11 without first completing CS 1, though CS 1 is still listed as a prerequisite for the course. It is hoped that this will at least partially fulfill student need for a beginning programming course."

### ESE, CNS, MS and CE Committee

"The committee investigating the future of the EAS degree should be informed of student and faculty survey results pertaining to that topic. Furthermore, they should be asked to strongly consider adding student representation to that committee, since student and faculty opinion on the topic varies widely and many students would be impacted by a change in the undergraduate EAS degree program. The chair of this Student Faculty Conference committee will communicate this recommendation to members of that committee."

"Students should be made aware that contacting the option representative or division chair is the proper mechanism for suggesting curriculum changes."

"The instructor of AM 35 should be informed that this course has been scheduled at the same time as ACM 95 in the past, and that since some undergraduates take those two courses concurrently, an effort should be made to avoid that scheduling problem in the future. The chair of this committee will complete this task."

"The committee examining course offerings in bioengineering should be informed that the undergraduate survey indicated a desire for more undergraduate level bioengineering courses. The chair of this Student Faculty Conference committee will complete this task."

### Humanities and Social Sciences Committee

"A solution to the SS requirements is badly needed, one that will allow students to fulfill graduation requirements with courses they want to take... course evaluations should be publicized, much like the GPS division... The committee would like to see minors offered in HSS... Additional lecturers should be hired in SS and in disciplines where we already have tenure-track faculty... Hum. courses should be offered in the following areas: non-Western History & Literature, Religion, Ancient History, Moral and Political Philosophy and Film... SS courses should be offered in the following areas: Linguistics, Archaeology, non-Economic Law... Music should be offered for advanced humanities credit... Film should be offered as a freshman humanities course."

### Mechanical Engineering Committee

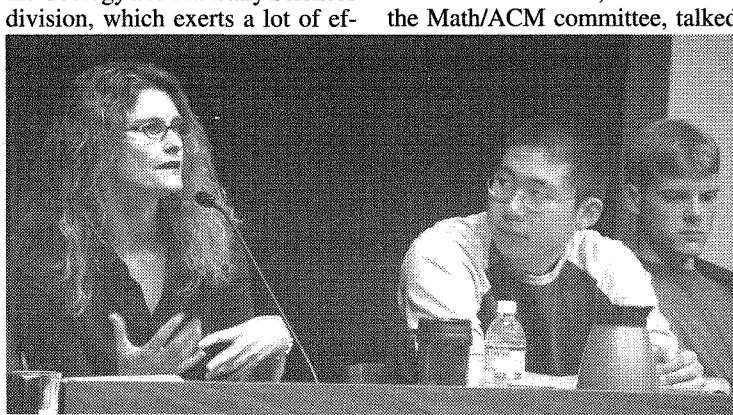
"The CS1 requirement for ME should be changed to a programming requirement. This may happen through changing the subject/content of CS1 to programming or by instead offering an introductory programming class without any prerequisites."

"A committee, composed of ME and Aero faculty members and undergraduate students, should be convened by the end of this year to develop a systematic schedule of classes, both term-by-term and hour-by-hour within each term."

"More ME faculty members need to be hired, in order to reduce the teaching load of the current faculty, and also to allow more classes to be taught by faculty members."

### Physics Committee

"We should discuss the ways that professors are chosen for courses: make sure that the good professors are assigned to the required classes... Books with worked examples would be nice. Maybe 125 and 106 can use books with worked examples, and 195 and 196 can use more terse books?... We should rewrite requirements for Ph 20 to remove the reference to CS 1. Maybe lower the level of Ph 20 since CS 1 doesn't teach C anymore?... We should hand out evaluation forms in class, instead of with the final. Give the students time to fill out the form in class... We should have actual recitation section in Ph 125 and 106, like there was in 12, where the TAs work example problems."



D. Korta/The California Tech  
Humanities Professor Cathy Jurca answers questions posed by concerned students during the Student-Faculty Conference.

# Interhouse Committee: Year in Review

## Chairman Reflects on the IHC's Goals and Accomplishments

By JEREMY PITTS

The current IHC came into power at a very tumultuous time. For most of the members, their first meeting with the rest of the IHC came when they got called into an emergency meeting with Margo Marshak to discuss the letter that she had just sent to Ricketts. Since then, we have all come to know that letter quite well. I did not get invited to that meeting because I happened to be in the middle of a runoff election.

My first meeting with the IHC came late on a Sunday night when the old presidents and all of the new presidents who had been elected by that time sat down with Tom Fletcher and Ted Jou and fired off a somewhat hasty letter to address ways the administration could start to regain our trust. Many of you probably know that letter as well, as it has since been published in the *Tech*. We have tried to continue to be proactive in the ongoing struggle to protect student rights on campus.

Much of our time has been spent in various meetings with Tom Mannion. At one such meeting, we discussed Capra Ranch. The institute is losing a great deal of money on Capra and is really looking to sell it. We compromised on the issue and agreed that the ranch could be sold, as long as students are always guaranteed to have retreat destinations. We will be signing a document stating this formally before anything goes into effect. The

new destinations for retreats will not only be nicer than Capra, but there will also be many different options, depending on what your group is looking for in a retreat.

We have also dealt with Gregg Henderson, chief of security, a few times. Some of our discussions concerned the new posts that prevent anyone from driving a campus. We were able to reach a compromise that allows us to get onto campus on weekends and at night. We also worked with Gregg on creating an avenue through which anyone can provide feedback, good or bad, on a security officer.

We have met with many other people as well. We talked to Al Horvath, vice president of business and finance, and Gary Dicovitsky, vice president of development and alumni relations, about the current institute fund raising goals, and in particular how the student house renovations fit into these goals. We will continue to push them to make the student houses a high priority.

We talked to Delmy Emerson, who is in charge of grounds and custodians, about the change in custodial staff management and the quality of custodial work in the houses. The custodians in the houses have recently changed from being overseen by housing to reporting to Delmy at physical plant and there seems to have been a change in quality. After speaking to Delmy though, it looks as though a lot of this is just because of the change and will improve over time.

We will continue to watch this issue closely.

This IHC has done more than just meet with administrators. I wrote in a previous article about our somewhat unpopular decision to only allow people to pick a card in one house. As I said before, the response to that decision has been noted and will be considered before any long-term decisions are made. The IHC has also been providing a lot of input to the new ASCIT resolution concerning committees as well. While this debate has gotten a bit heated at times, the resolution has been much better off because of it.

Looming large on the horizon is Rotation. It seems as though that will be the biggest test that we face as an IHC. If you have any comments or concerns about the way rotation runs, please let myself or any other member of the IHC know. We will be going on the annual IHC retreat sometime between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of September to revisit Rotation rules and the picks procedure so that things will run as smoothly as possible this year.

Just as I ended my last article, I will end this article by saying that if you have questions/comments/concerns about anything that the IHC has done/should do/is going to do, do not hesitate to let one of us know. We are only trying to do what is best for the members of the seven houses, and the easiest way for us to know what is best is for people to tell us.

# To Broad Outcry, IHC Ruling Blocks Multiple Room Picks

By JENNY IOFINOVA and ARTHI SRINIVASAN

with each individual case, because the house officers know their members on a personal level and would be better prepared to make decisions tailored to each case. Said Jou, "It's nicest to push those things down to the lowest level you can."

The IHC chairman, along with several of the presidents expressed concern over the misunderstandings regarding this decision. They all stressed that the decision was not a resolution, but merely a decision that affected room picks this year only. Said Jeremy Pitts '03, chairman of the IHC, "Next year will be exactly the same as in the past with only what is in the current IHC resolutions covering room picks."

According to Pitts, the goal of this year's policy was to ensure that "a person who is a member of multiple houses could not get into the house they really wanted to, but still take a room in another house just so they could be closer to their first-choice house."

A concern of many house presidents was that the people who tried to play the system by picking in multiple house lotteries to have any chance of living on campus were making it harder for people who were actively involved and closely affiliated with their house to live on. Pitts further noted, "I think that a lot of it is that the presidents only want people who are very pro-house getting spots in their house."

According to Page president Mike Lammers '04, "It is unfair for people to gain an advantage in getting a room on campus simply because they spend more money to be full members of additional houses. It is unfair to a house to have highly active members kicked off campus so that a person who effectively spends all of their time with another house can live on."

Lammers also pointed out that his vote on the IHC is cast on behalf of his house and in accordance with his house members' opinion. As only one Page member has signed the petition so far, Lammers is largely unmoved by the petition.

At least one member of the IHC has changed his mind about the decision to forbid double picks by members of two houses. After voting in favor of the decision, Jason Schadewald '04, president of Rud-dock, later decided that the decision had been made in error, and that while he voted for this year's policy, he now agrees with Jou.

Likewise, Ricketts president Natalia Deligne '04 said that Ricketts overturned its no-double room picks policy because, in her words, "since Ricketts does not offer social membership, it is felt that being a full member entitles you to *all* the privileges of a full member, which includes being allowed to participate in room picks."

The IHC and several house presidents also pointed out that they felt the petition was unnecessary because there was no official resolution to overturn, and in fact, the decision only affected the house picks for this year. However, they also felt it was important for the students to make their opinions on this decision known to the IHC.

Although the IHC decision only affected the room picks for this year, the decision has spawned a lot of discussion of the way room picks are held, and more generally, the IHC's role in each house's room pick rules. Commented Pitts, "[it would be great] to open up a dialogue of people giving us input on how they would prefer room picks to happen." Whether this resolution becomes permanent remains to be seen.

## Flashback: Asleep in Boxes, Ricketts Members Decry Recent Marshak Decree

By MATTHEW WALKER

*Originally printed March 10, 2003.*

Reacting to a recent letter from Vice President of Student Affairs Margo Marshak announcing her decision to charge Ricketts House \$5,000 for extra security guards at the house's annual inter-house party, Ricketts members staged two visible protests on campus this past week.

Obviously upset about the letter, Ricketts House collectively decided to respond. After considering a few ideas suggested by Ricketts Treasurer Burak Cendek '04, the House decided on its two protests: first, sending security guards to Ms. Marshak's office; and next, staging a day of purported homelessness.

Sending two security guards, who were actually Ricketts members dressed up as security guards, was the brainchild of former Ricketts President and alumnus Rick Karnesky '02. Two students kept vigil over Ms. Marshak's office from eight a.m. to five p.m. both Tuesday and Wednesday.

The protest was meant to underscore how ridiculous it was to assign additional guards to Ricketts House, since "the real guards spent most of the weekend watching an empty courtyard," according to Cendek. The continuous coverage provided by the students emphasized the how serious they were about the issue.

On Thursday, members of Ricketts pretended to be homeless, setting up camp in cardboard boxes on the Olive Walk outside Ricketts, to bring attention to the threat of disbanding the house. According to the letter sent to Ricketts, members would not be guaranteed Institute housing if the house were disbanded.

Starting in front of the Student Activities Center, the "shantytown" moved in front of Ricketts and then

to Parsons-Gates in the afternoon. The protest had widespread house support and present Ricketts President Natalia Deligne '04 had worked prior to the gathering to ensure security officials' permission.

There was a high of 25 people at one point and around 20 for a good part of the day, including some students from other houses. Members of Ricketts made the pickets together the night before.

Many protesters thought that it went well. "The protest went well and shows that we didn't forget [about the letter]," said member Dima Kernasovskiy '05, "It made administration uncomfortable."

Other opinions were more lukewarm. Fellow member Rachel Yohay '06 thought that the protest "started well, but devolved into a joke; [still,] the message was clear." Glenn Jones '03 concurred that the protest went well, but thought it would have been "more effective if there was a more uniform understanding [of the purpose]."

One of the major accomplishments of the protest was that, in the eyes of Ricketts, it heightened awareness of the issue. Jason Mitchell '04, who participated in the protest, said that "a lot of people were surprised [by the threat]." Echoing this point was Jeff Bolz '03, who said that "the message got out to a lot of people."

Daniel Stolarski '06 further emphasized that the protest got administrative attention. President David Baltimore, Ms. Marshak and Dean of Students Jean-Paul Revel all stopped by over the course of the day. Ms. Marshak and Dr. Revel, who tossed the protesters a quarter, took the protest in good spirits, but Dr. Baltimore did not view the protest so well.

Cendek added that the point of moving around was to get exposure to the different populations on cam-

## Ending Multiple Room Picks: A Decision 'Made in Error'

By JASON SCHADEWALD

First of all, allow me to point out that the IHC card picks decision was not a "resolution." In fact, it does not exist in any enforceable form. When it was first mentioned, I believe the IHC was under the impression that it was a resolution that had been passed by a previous IHC two years ago. At least, that was my understanding.

The argument in favor of the decision was that there are people ev-

pus. He felt that all groups were reached by the protest and that the protest was a lot more effective than letters or articles, since they are easily ignored.

There was apparently a discussion between Dr. Baltimore and some of the protesters. Former Ricketts President Juan Rodriguez '03 was one of the main Ricketts members to debate Dr. Baltimore. He felt that Caltech administration had acted too quickly in this case and was upset that despite calling for mutual respect, Dr. Baltimore had refused to respond to letters about the issue.

Additionally, Mitchell was angered by a comment by Dr. Baltimore that the severity of the issue overshadowed the need to gather complete evidence before acting. Rodriguez added that otherwise, the protest brought "a lot of exposure to the issue."

Cendek admitted that Ricketts House made some mistakes, but that administration cannot just change the system. The houses have a history that is an important part of Caltech. Hannah Shafaat '06, a Fleming House member who participated in the protest agreed, saying, "I strongly disagree with any administrative action that [attacks the house system]."

Overall, the protest succeeded in bringing the issue to light within the Caltech community, said Cendek. He added that a similar protest will take place this week to build on that success.

ery year who try to cheat the system by entering the picks of multiple houses simply in order to have a better chance of living on campus, regardless of the house with which they are most closely affiliated. The concern was that these people were displacing house members who would be more loyal and active in the house, but who only have full membership in a single house.

I do believe that the IHC exists to make these types of decisions, and it would be a mistake to undermine the authority of the IHC to the point that this power may be usurped by ASCIT or the administration.

In my personal opinion, the card picks decision was made in error and should not be practiced in the future. The process by which and the people to whom a house decides to award card picks should be a decision left to each individual house, as long as these processes are conducted in a spirit of fairness. So, who decides what "fair" is? There is a balance between the sovereignty of the houses and the authority of the IHC on this matter.

In the case of the recent card picks decision, I think the IHC made the wrong choice and should have learned an important lesson given the backlash that followed. I can't speak for the IHC, but I personally apologize to the undergraduate community and especially to my house that my vote was cast in favor of the recent decision.

I now recognize that it was a mistake, and I plan to advocate that it not be made a permanent rule. I only hope that all student government organizations on campus can learn that sometimes the best solution to a political problem can come from personal attention paid to those involved rather than passing resolutions or imposing authority.

It seems ironic that we ask the administration to treat us as adults when our student government won't extend us that same courtesy.

# Thanks, Farewell From Departed Administrators West, Friedman

To The Caltech Community,

Thank you for the phone calls, e-mails, cards, candy, flowers, lunches and way too many dinners over the past four weeks. You have touched our hearts, confirmed our beliefs and reminded us why we will miss working with so many of you.

We would be remiss if we didn't take a moment to thank some people who have made our time at Caltech meaningful.

We have, over time, had the opportunity to work with several groups of people within the student houses. In different ways, each has helped us not only address challenges we faced but enhanced the services we provided. In the end, it was the students who benefited from these relationships. Social team members - you have been great to work with. You allowed us to turn the event registration process from a last minute panic to a well-oiled machine!

UCCs—the ways in which you support and assist others is truly appreciated and on more than one occasion, you made a difference in how our office responded to a situation. House presidents - you are in challenging positions, often in more ways than you ever imagined when you were elected. You also have the ability to have tremendous power and influence as it relates to policy decisions and the quality of life for students. Don't ever let that influence subside.

We have also had the great pleasure of working with some wonderful colleagues who assisted us in solving problems, creating guidelines, clarifying information and opening doors for students. You have made us laugh, brightened many a day and contributed to our sense of accomplishment on a regular basis. Caz, you and your staff in Safety were there every time we had a question, needed professional advice or just wanted an opinion. Gregg, the Security Office has been a major source of assistance and we could always count on getting the response we needed from you or someone on your staff. Candace and Jennifer (Kathleen and Beverly before you), you were always there to help clarify a situation, support a student or respond to a crisis. Your knowledge and wisdom were always something we could depend on. Kevin, the Counseling Center responded day or night when anyone on our staff needed assistance with a situation and I can't imagine what we would have done without that sound, reasonable advice you always gave. The willingness of so many faculty to be involved in the lives of students gave us an opportunity to meet many of you - house associates, faculty in residence, those who held administrative posts and those we served on committees with us. Your time and efforts were much appreciated.

Many years ago our office staff became a group of people who valued each other as colleagues and as friends. We worked hard, poked fun at our personality differences, traveled together and have memories that will last a long time. We have had two partners in those endeavors. The first is Sue Chiarchiaro. We were a team in every sense of the word. When told about the organizational changes, our initial concerns were not for ourselves but for each other. That was how we functioned as a staff and it made being in the office together a very special time. Sue, we're sorry to leave you behind but we're free for "a meeting" any day you are.

Our other teammate was David Wales, former MOSH and good friend to Residence Life. David (and Kathy), thank you for your guidance, support and enduring friendship. We really need to know where you are going next so we can make reservations!

There are the many Resident Associates who have come and gone since 1990. It is almost impossible to describe how that group has impacted our lives. We have seen relationships blossom and others end. We celebrated your dissertation defenses, cheered your engagements and danced at your weddings. Sue has a goddaughter whose parents are current RAs off-campus. Kim has a godson whose parents were the RAs in Dabney for five years. We've been at the hospital when "RA babys" were born and Kim had the privilege of being in the delivery room when the former Marks House RAs had their first son. We joked to the nurses that we'd be back so it was only fitting then that those same RAs would be with Kim when her twins were born two years later. As the guardians for each other's children now, we are constantly reminded that the relationship began in Residence Life!

We have had the privilege of working with RAs who were smart, compassionate, tireless, creative and committed. You did what was right (not necessarily popular) and understood the huge task you had taken on in becoming RAs. You kept the safety and well-being of Caltech students at the heart of everything you did and acted with great care and integrity along the way. You live all over the world now and somehow many of us manage to keep in touch and see each other when we can. We are confident that many of you will always be a part of our lives.

Finally, and most importantly, there are the many students we have had the privilege of knowing. We met you under a variety of circumstances - checking you into housing, on a boat to frosh camp, helping you with a problem, assisting you with a program or event or because you had crossed paths with Security in the middle of the night and your name was now on a security report! No matter how it happened, we valued it. We have cheered you as you received scholarships and awards, were elected to student leadership positions, got into medical school or landed your first job. We helped you buy your first suit, watched you learn to drive, met your new girlfriend and heard stories we weren't sure we wanted to hear! Many of you have stayed in touch and enough time has passed that we now watch you get married and, yes, even have children. A wedding invitation arrived today! The day after we were notified of the changes, an e-mail arrived from a current student that said in part "If you just need someone to vent to, or need a hug or anything feel free to give me a call at any time. You've been there for so many people, the least I could do is try and help out through these stressful times." That is what makes so many of you special to us. Thank you for the honor of having known you.

All that said, we are doing fine... but thanks for asking! While we don't agree with some of the decisions or changes that were made, we are content to move on at this point. Trying to do what Residence Life could and should be doing had become too hard at Caltech. We hope the faculty, staff, students and alums we have heard from in the past four weeks continue to pursue those issues we seem to agree are important.

To all of you who we have known, thank you very, very much for your kindness, support and wonderful words of wisdom. Our experiences at Caltech will not be forgotten and neither will you. We hope you will remain colleagues and friends for years to come.

Susan L. Friedman  
Former Assistant Director of Residence Life

Kim D. West, Ph.D.  
Former Director of Residence Life



The California Tech archives

**Kim West, left, and Sue Friedman have devoted many years of their lives to the Caltech Residence Life office and to Caltech students. Their positions were eliminated just over a month ago due to campus administrative budget cuts and restructuring.**



D. Korta/The California Tech

Margo Marshak's smile has indeed proven ever present over the course of the year.

## With 20 Years of Experience, Newcomer Marshak Strives To 'Represent' in New Post

By MARK POLINKOVSKY

Originally printed December 9, 2002.

"My job is to represent the interests of the students," said incoming Student Affairs Vice President Margo Marshak about her new post.

After spending more than 20 years in high-ranking student-affairs positions, Dr. Marshak comes to Caltech as the first full-time vice president of Student Affairs. Besides voicing students' views in meetings with other administrators, Dr. Marshak directs the extensive department of Student Affairs.

Selected for the position out of a large field of highly qualified candidates, she has extensive experience in the field, with experience in similar roles at such prestigious universities as New York University, the University of Chicago and the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania. With virtually any door open to her, then, why Caltech?

"The quality of the students is tremendous and I like the close-knit atmosphere of Caltech," she mused, smiling. "It felt like an unbelievable opportunity." Dr. Marshak cited her intrigue in Caltech traditions, as well as in the unique student culture of self-governance. All this served to secure for her this position at Caltech.

In her first month at Caltech, Dr. Marshak has worked tirelessly to adapt to Caltech. Each day, she attends several meetings with administrators of other departments, as well as with those working under her. Attending such meetings helps her get accustomed to Caltech's unique social and academic atmosphere.

Similarly, Marshak speaks regularly with student leaders to better understand the needs of the student body. She has attended many campus-wide events, as well as formal dinners, at some of the undergraduate houses to better understand the Caltech culture. Marshak feels that she must learn how Caltech functions so that she does not impose her past experience, but uses it only to help her.

Asked about her goals, Dr. Marshak stressed that she is still growing acclimated to the institute and has thus not yet fully developed specific goals on which to direct her focus. Still, she does have a general goal: "to make Student Affairs as good as it can possibly be."

Further, Dr. Marshak stresses communication between Student Affairs and the student body. Because she sees herself as a strong advocate for the students to the administration, this, she says, is especially important to her.

One of her major duties, for instance, is informing students of decisions that affect them. Yet, Dr. Marshak also wants to hear also from students about their experiences. She explains that it is impossible to represent students' views if students do not communicate with her.

Thus, reaching out to the student body is a major focus for Dr. Marshak. In leading such a large department as Student Affairs, she must deal with many issues and at the forefront are the major problems facing Caltech and its students.

Along this vein, Dr. Marshak has met with other administrators on minimizing the impact of budget cuts. "To resolve the situation, all members of the Caltech community will have to make sacrifices," she noted. Some of these sacrifices might be parking fees and increased health insurance costs. Still, Dr. Marshak emphasized that similar problems are affecting all of higher education.

She has also begun to address the oft-mentioned low student morale. She described the ASCIT-led "What I Love About Caltech" event, held two weeks ago, as instrumental in her understanding the social issues facing the Caltech community. In this regard, Marshak sees one of the main purposes of Student Affairs as working to make students feel satisfied with their education and life at Caltech.

As vice president for Student Affairs, Margo Marshak has an important job in the administration of Caltech. Not only does she direct many departments, but also represents students in the administrative structure. Coming to Caltech after years of experience at other colleges, Dr. Marshak promises to address the many issues plaguing Caltech students. She ultimately chose Caltech because of its unique culture and hopes to maintain this atmosphere and help students enjoy it.

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