

# THE CALIFORNIA TECH



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## Alumni and Biology Professors Meet President of Iceland

BY: ANNA HISZPANSKI

A few weeks before undergrads returned to Tech for a year of classes, exams, and field trips, undergrads of years past came together this past August to take a kind of field trip of their own. However, unlike most typical field trips, this one took alums across the Atlantic to Iceland and began with a welcoming by the President of the country.

"The Alumni Association does what we consider 'educational tours' for alumni. We typically have two or three trips a year, usually overseas," said Andrew Shaindin, Executive Director of the Alumni Association. "We look for faculty who can lead the trip and whose expertise is related to the itinerary. Then [the professors] can give firsthand information to the alums so it makes it a unique Caltech experience."

Biology Professors Scott Fraser and Marianne Bronner-Fraser led the Icelandic trip, whose focus was the unique genetics research taking place in Iceland. Both professors previously led alumni expeditions to the Galápagos Islands and Costa Rica, as well.

Upon arriving in the capital,

Reykjavík, the Caltech group was welcomed to the country at a reception hosted by the President of Iceland and the former prime minister of Iceland at the President's residence. The Alumni Association was able to arrange the special welcoming because the former prime minister of Iceland, Steingrímur Hermannsson, is a Caltech alum from the Class of 1952.

"I contacted [Hermannsson] to see if he was willing to welcome the group at a reception, and he emailed me back saying he would try to do even better than that," said Shaindin. "He said the current President would be glad to host our group at a reception at his residence, and that was our official welcome."

Keeping in-line with their goal of "doing things that you couldn't do if you weren't with Caltech [on the trip]," the Alumni Association was also able to arrange a private tour of the headquarters of deCODE Genetics, a biopharmaceutical company in the capital Reykjavík that conducts research in genetics and applies its advancements towards developing drugs to treat various genetic diseases. Typically the



Alumni sailed an Icelandic glacial lagoon in this amphibious "duck".

company does not offer tours, but because two Caltech alums hold high management positions in the company, special arrangements were made.

According to Shaindin, many Icelandic families have records of their family trees that trace a family's roots to Iceland's founding in the 9th century. The combination of genealogy, detailed medical histories, and Iceland's isolation allows deCODE to better study and understand genetic diseases.

"deCODE is really amazing,"

said sophomore and biology major Angela Zah, the only undergraduate on the trip. "Iceland is a really isolated country. It's a closed community and pretty homogeneous. So what they can do is take two individuals from one family, one with a genetic disease and one without, and compare their genomes to gene-target for diseases."

The Alumni Association typically invites one or two students to join the trip. Zah was selected for the Icelandic trip, and her expenses were covered by a fund

established by an anonymous donor specifically for the purpose of sponsoring undergrads to travel on the alumni trips.

"This is not something that students apply for," said Shaindin. "When we identify a trip that we want to do, we ask the faculty leader or leaders to identify a small number of students who could potentially participate and who alumni would enjoy traveling with. Based on those criteria, the faculty and alumni staff select one or two students to go."

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## Volleyball Loses in Doubleheader

BY: MATTHEW GLASSMAN

Techers donned body paint last Friday night as the volleyball team suited up for their second double header of the season and ASCIT hosted the first athletic barbecue of the season. The evening began with a tough loss to the West Coast Baptist Eagles (24-30, 15-30, 25-30) and ended with another defeat by the University of Dallas Crusaders (16-30, 15-30, 14-30).

"We played really hard, and we're pretty exhausted," said co-captain and setter Sarah Stidham on the team's effort. "This was probably one of the better nights of our season."

The women played both games in a gymnasium packed with fans. Hopes were high that Caltech (0-9) might have pulled off a win against West Coast Baptist (9-9) to mark the first intercollegiate victory in two seasons.

"If we didn't have so much stress from work, we'd be able to beat these [teams]," exclaimed topless fan Constantine Sideris with a huge exclamation-point painted across his chest.

After the first match, fans strolled out to the track to grab a bite to eat at the athletic barbecue, run by the Meat Club. Two grills cooked everything from burgers to steaks to vegetable skewers. The volleyball players could be seen getting a quick snack before heading back to the gym for the second match.

"It was better than CDS on a Friday night," one student said.



Caltech's volleyball team fought hard in two back-to-back games.

The last time volleyball won a match was in the 2004 season, against the same West Coast Baptist they played last Friday.

While the women have won a few games, they have never won a

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## DVD Library Reopens

BY: DANIEL ROWLANDS

After spending last year in storage, the ASCIT DVD lending library will be available for use any day now. The DVDs will be available for check-out by undergrads and grad students at Coffeehouse in the Red Door each evening and can be checked out for a period of three days.

The library contains several hundred DVDs, including classics, sci-fi films, and a number of Russian and Korean language films. A complete listing can be found on the Donut website.

Several years ago, ASCIT devoted some of its excess money to building the DVD library and improving the acoustics in the ASCIT Screening Room. The library was kept in the SAC until it was closed for the South House Restoration.

DVDs were checked out by swiping one's ID and scanning the DVD's barcode. A computer system designed by Ryan and Graham Yoakum kept track of which DVDs were available and who had the checked-out ones. After the SAC closed, the library went into a state of limbo. The DVDs themselves were kept by a series of students while the DVD cases have gone missing and are thought to be in storage somewhere in St. Luke's Medical Center.

There were rumors that the library might become available at some point last year, but the only visible sign of the library's existence was the DVD return box near the student mailboxes be-

tween Lloyd and Page. The delay was caused by the need to prepare the new check-out computer for use.

While the library was in storage last year, ASCIT Frosh Director at Large Chris Watson spearheaded an effort to get it back into service as soon as possible. The BoC donated a laptop that it was no longer using to run the check-out system and Evan Murphy wrote the software to run the system.

The library will be stored on the second floor of Winnett during the day and will be brought into the Red Door for use during Coffeehouse. The only remaining delay is obtaining a cart to store and transport the DVDs.

Watson said that ASCIT is trying to get a cart from the Caltech libraries, but if they can't they have funds on hand to purchase one.

While there are currently no plans to purchase new DVDs, IHC Chair Craig Montuori said that it is "somewhat likely" next year's BoD will be interested in replacing DVDs that have been lost. At the moment there is no procedure in place for students to request additions to the library—a suggestion box is likely to be placed in Coffeehouse along with the library, but ASCIT hasn't decided how many requests they will fill or the timescale for additions to the library.

The GSC recently contributed a significant amount of money to the library, and will presumably have some say in how that money is used.

Career Fair Special

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### In This Issue

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- Sizzling Sensations at Mannion's
- Mathematica Adds Up
- Dr. Quark Rescues Techers Again

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New Season of Numb3rs

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Photo courtesy of Andrew Shaindin

# The Outside World

BY: HAROLD MARTIN

## World Responds to North Korea's Nuclear Test

Since it reported its first nuclear test last Monday, North Korea has been roundly condemned for its actions. However, the U.N. Security Council has yet to set forth any consequences should North Korea continue its tests.

Japan has already responded by imposing strict sanctions against North Korea, including a total embargo on exports from North Korea. The U.S. has pushed for less restrictive sanctions to be imposed by the Security Council, but this has been opposed by Russia, which wields a Security Council veto.

China, one of North Korea's closest allies, has stated that it supports limited sanctions, but that those sanctions ought to be designed to bring North Korea back to six-party diplomatic talks.

North Korea has remained steadfastly defiant, stating that it will view sanctions as a declaration of war, and that continued pressure from the U.S. will only lead to further nuclear tests.

## American al-Qaeda Member Indicted for Treason

Adam Gadahn, a 28 year old former resident of California, has been indicted for treason after providing "aid and comfort" to al-Qaeda. This is the first time an American has been indicted for treason since 1952.

Since joining al-Qaeda in May 2004, Gadahn has been an important propagandist for the terrorist organization. He has appeared in various videos, vehemently declaring his hatred of America and claiming that more violent attacks are forthcoming.

Believed to be in Pakistan, the FBI has placed Gadahn on their "Most Wanted Terrorists" list, and the State Department is offering a \$1 million reward for information

leading to his arrest.

## Russian Reporter Killed, Final Report Published

Two weeks ago, outspoken Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya was slain, apparently by a hired assassin. She was murdered just as she was finalizing a report exposing brutal human rights violations committed in Chechnya by various pro-Russian forces, which her editor published posthumously last Thursday.

Her report, which includes gruesome images from a torture video, claimed that Kremlin backed security forces were extracting confessions from Chechens in order to manufacture evidence that the war against Chechen separatists is going well.

Her murder has engendered strong international response, since she was one of the few remaining journalists willing to publicly criticize Moscow, in spite of increasing restrictions on freedom of the press.

## U.K. Antispam Firm Defies U.S. Court

The Spamhaus Project, a U.K. organization responsible for blocking up to 50 billion spam messages daily, has defied a U.S. District Court ruling that it remove U.S. spammer e360insight from its blacklist. Spamhaus did not contest the case, instead claiming that it was not under the jurisdiction of any U.S. court.

On Oct 6th, the judge in the case struck back, proposing that the U.S. based ICANN, the organization responsible for managing domain name distribution, be ordered to remove Spamhaus from the internet records.

Aside from the technical problems such a massive increase in spam would cause, such an order would undoubtedly be perceived by the international community as an attempt by the U.S. government to control the internet, and could trigger a crisis in internet governance.

## Bangladeshi Economist Wins Nobel Peace Prize

Muhammad Yunus won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for his creation of the concept of "micro-credit", small loans to those too impoverished to qualify for traditional bank loans.

After developing the concept, Yunus founded the Grameen Bank in 1976 to execute it. This bank turned normal banking practice on its head, requiring that borrowers provide evidence of their poverty in order to qualify for loans. Since then, Grameen Bank has provided over \$4.7 billion in loans, helping impoverished villagers, especially women, to break out of poverty.

Yunus' microloan model has since been emulated in numerous countries, playing what the Nobel Foundation called a "major part" in eliminating world poverty. He pledged to use his award money to set up a company to create low-cost high-nutrition food for the poor.

## First Congressman Convicted in Abramoff Bribery Scandal

After long denying his involvement, Rep. Bob Ney pled guilty last Friday to taking bribes from right-wing lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Standing before a judge, he admitted to accepting money and other gifts in return for performing official acts on Abramoff's clients' behalf.

The Abramoff scandal has severely tainted the Republican-controlled congress over the past several months, and various congressional aides have pleaded guilty on related charges. Ney, the first member of congress to be convicted, now faces up to 10 years in prison.

Ney has not yet resigned his seat in congress, reportedly due to his weak financial situation, although he has promised to do before receiving his sentence.

of reserves ASCIT still has. If you're in need of funding, we have money to give you!

### 4. Movie Library

\* WANTED: A tri-level wheely cart for the movie library. Once this item is obtained, we can start renting out movies! Chris Watson will look into getting a temporary cart from the Library so movies can be checked out as soon as Friday from the Coffeehouse in Red Door!

### 5. Staff Awards

\* All the awards are currently in the Tech Express (taking up 1/2 the room in there!). After the meeting, the boxes will be brought to Todd and Nate's room for storage until Watson distributes them to the awardees by this Friday.

### 6. Thank you Tom!

\* Tom Mannion bought laptops for both the IHC and ASCIT so we can store all our files in one place from year to year! (A big thanks from the Secretaries!)

### 7. Athletic BBQ Friday, Oct. 13th

\* The ASCIT Social Team is having the first Athletic BBQ this term this Friday, Oct. 13th, between the volleyball games. We'll see you there!

Respectfully submitted,  
Vickie Pon  
ASCIT Secretary



# Announcement

## New Space Contest

NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate announced a new aeronautics competition for high school and college students.

College students are invited to propose solutions for complex technical problems in hypersonic and supersonic flight; subsonic fixed and rotary wing transports; or Mars entry, descent, and landing. College entries are due by April 27.

Monetary awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 may be available for first place winners in each category. There will be awards for second and third places and honorable mention recognition. Winning university students may be offered a ten-week summer internship at a NASA field center.

For details about this competition, visit: <http://aero.larc.nasa.gov/competitions.htm>

## Alums Enjoy Iceland

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Zah said that, though there was an age-gap between her and most of the alumni, she enjoyed traveling with them and trading Tech stories.

"A lot of the people were really interesting, and I got to talk to them about how Caltech was in the past," said Zah. "Many of the alums on the trip were Darbs, and they were telling me how Dabney used to be the gentlemen's house and was the last one to give up wearing suits and ties to dinner."

In addition to meeting the President and visiting deCODE, Zah and the group toured the many natural wonders of Iceland, including the Blue Lagoon, Skatafell National Park, and Lake Myvatn.

"Iceland's geology is just amazing..." said Dave Rossum, an alum who has traveled on several Caltech trips with his wife Karen. "There's so much to see and so many questions to ask."

"We also went to this glacial lagoon where they filmed two Bond movies," said Zah. "It never freezes over because of the salt water that flows in from the ocean. So when they filmed [Die

Another Day], they blocked off the inlet from the ocean so that the lagoon would freeze over."

The group's expeditions into the outdoors were especially pleasant because of the uncommonly sunny weather. In the 10 days the group was there, all but the last day were warm and rainy.

"I bought my son a t-shirt and had to wear it just because it was so hot. It was in the 60's and 70's nearly the whole time," said Mrs. Karen Rossum.

"We sent people a packing list to bring mittens, wool socks, umbrellas, and water proof pants.... And then we got there and it was gorgeous," said Shaindin with a laugh.

Now back at its Caltech home, the Alumni Association has already begun planning its next trip to the Sea of Cortez, which is slated to be led by geology Professor Joann Stock in June of 2007. However, while the Iceland trip may be over, the impression the country made on the group appears to be a lasting one.

"The country is so beautiful, and the people are so nice," said Zah. "I would definitely go

## Teachers Support Team

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will host their biggest rival, Occidental College, at Brown Gym on Tuesday, 7:30 PM.

"They didn't win any games tonight, but they held out against some tough teams," said Head Coach Maureen Burl. "We were missing one of our starting outside hitters [senior co-captain Lisa Streat] but the rest of the team rose to the challenge."

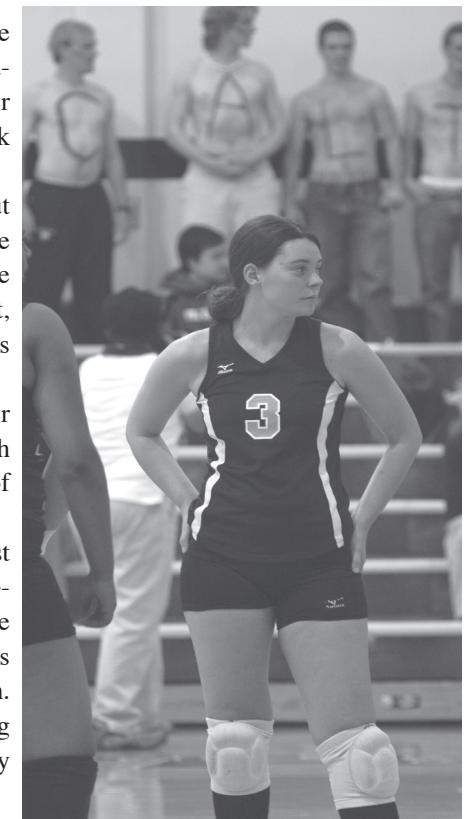
In the third and final game against the Eagles, the Beavers were behind by over ten points, but fought back to rally to within three.

"I try not to think about the score," said junior Rene Davis on coming back late in the game. "My mindset, since I'm not that good, is just to hustle all the time."

Caltech had a tougher time in the second match against the University of Dallas (12-14).

"We could have beat West Coast Baptist," said co-captain Erin White. "We made too many errors. Dallas was a better team, though. I'm not upset about losing to them. We were pretty tired."

The team is looking forward to their next game this coming Tuesday. Caltech



Co-captain Erin White and bare-chested Teachers wait for the serve in the second match of Friday's doubleheader.

## ASCIT Minutes

Wednesday, October 11, 2006  
Present Officers: Todd Gingrich, Jean Sun, Craig Montuori, Vickie Pon, Chris Gonzales, Csilla Felsen, Nathan Donnellan, Chris Watson, Jon Senn, RJ Krom

Guests: Kevin Watts, Joe Donovan, Mitchell Wang, Nathan Crook

### 1. Funding Requests

\* Kevin Watts and Joe Donovan, the VP and Prez of BEM Club, requested \$250 to invite speakers for lunch talks. BEM Club just started up recently (after the spring club funding season), so \$250 would be enough funding for Fall and Winter terms. BEM Club will apply for club funding again in the spring.

o Vote: A unanimous vote granted BEM Club \$250.

\* RJ requested \$300-500 in funding for the Ultimate Frisbee Club. The Ultimate Frisbee Club has been playing against other collegiate teams and in tournaments. They need uniforms, which cost at least \$35 each for the 20+ members.

o Vote: A unanimous vote granted the Ultimate Frisbee Club \$500 for uniforms.

\* Mitchell Wang and Nathan Crook requested \$250 in funding for a "Speed-Dating" event. The funding would go towards food, prizes for 1st dates, and raffle prizes. The BoD asked if this will



## BREAK AWAY.

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QVT is a hedge fund company with over \$5 billion under management. We're going places, and we're looking for more great people to help us get there.

**Interview Date: Thursday, October 19, 2006**

**Please stop by our booth at the Fall Career Fair on Wednesday, October 18, 2006 from 10:30am to 2:30pm at the Bechtel Mall.**

Please submit your application online via the MonsterTRAK recruiting system.

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# Then and Now

BY: YANG YANG

Although Caltech has managed to stay at the forefront of a century of technology, the school has retained many of its historic qualities.

The September 25, 1958 edition of the Tech greeted 202 "big and bright" new students on campus; two weeks ago, we welcomed 231 new undergraduates. Almost every issue of *The Tech* in 1948 contained updated scores for Interhouse sports, the editors even compiled all-star teams for some sports. Just yesterday, our house Athmen reminded everyone of the upcoming Interhouse tennis matches.

Anyone can read the history of Caltech on the school webpage, filled with interesting tidbits about past faculty and alumni. However, none of it notes the unique student life at the Institute.

Even the Wikipedia article on Caltech reads more like a resume than a biography. Amongst all the amazing accomplishments, the student's perspectives were lost.

Curious what life was really like at Caltech, I began delving into the archives of *The Tech*.

As an official ASCIT publication, *The Tech* did cover a lot of the major accomplishments – Nobel-prize-winning faculty, major award winners and campus renovations. However, the student writers often injected their own sense of humor and opinions into its pages.

I had originally planned one article about *The Tech*'s past and present, but after spending two hours browsing the 1948-1948 edition of the Tech, I realized there was no way 60 years of stories can be retold with just one article. Hopefully, I will be back again with more stories to

tell, perhaps even interview from alumni.

## The ratio

In most social situations at Caltech, it is the 500lb gorilla that everyone has learned to ignore. Although no one vocally complains about the ratio, any guy or girl would seize the option to change it.

But for the majority of Caltech history, the school had been all-male. The first female undergraduates did not enroll in the Institute until the fall of 1970.

How did the undergrads handle the situation back then?

Although there were no female undergrads, girls were never absent from campus. The houses held an annual interhouse dance, filled with couples that disappear into "the darkest corners of the lounges," according to the December 4, 1947 edition of *The Tech*. Local jewelry shops publicized their engagement ring prices through ads in the paper, aimed at hopeful lovers.

To encourage social interaction with the other sex, official events were arranged for Tech men. In its October 5, 1958 edition, one Tech headline blares "Frosh to Meet Girls."

"About 200 college freshman and high school senior girls will be on the Caltech campus Sunday for the Annual Freshman Tea Dance, according to Dance Chairman Lou Toth" the story reads. "They are the cream of the crop," said Toth, describing his imports from Scripps, Los Angeles County Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital and the local high schools."

Another popular pre-integration mixer was the prom, complete with King and Queen. Candidates for queen of the prom were selected by houses and on-campus organizations, they were mostly girls from local colleges and high schools.

Each year before the big dance, the candidates' pictures and a short blurb were inserted in the Tech, in 1949 the head shots took up 70% of the front page.

Despite all the encouraged opportunities, many students were still quite unhappy with the situation. Headline such as "Aroused Beavers Tie Poets 6-6," in the 1948 edition belied a sense of sexual frustration. Pictures of a scantily clad woman headlined two editions of the Tech in 1969, the second one with the caption "if you didn't get it last week..." A 1949 joke issue of the Tech bitterly noted the ratio.

"The following sex breakdown was released by the registrar's office recently:

Male students .....731

Women students.....000"

It comes as no surprise that for a period of time a strip club named Hi Life prospered near Caltech. Starting in the fall of 1970, the club began advertising in the Tech, luring men with a "special daytime offer for Caltech students, faculty, alumni and employees..."

**Next week: The history of integration at Tech**



## From Job Fair to Job Offer

BY: JONIE WATANABE TSUJI  
CAREER CENTER

The Caltech Career Fair will occur this Wednesday the 18th at Bechtell Mall, the area behind Millikan Library. *The Tech* presents the following information from the Caltech Career Center.

What comes to mind when you think of the Career Fair? Cool giveaways? Door Prizes? Hopefully you consider getting a full-time job, an internship, meeting specific employers, or just asking lots of questions to find out about

an industry, organization, or future careers.

Who comes to the Career Fair? Companies that are actively hiring. They know about the quality of Caltech students and its rigorous academic programs. In fact, many of the recruiters are Caltech alumni.

How should you prepare yourself for the Career Fair? The most important thing is to plan ahead!

1) Bring your resume. Attend a resume writing workshop and get feedback from others. If you don't have a good resume yet, then collect cards and send employers one as a follow up.

2) See who is coming – Go to the Career Development Center website at [www.career.caltech.edu](http://www.career.caltech.edu), we have a link to all of the companies who are attending. We also have a ready-made list of companies listed alphabetically, as well as by industry. Check out the company websites, and prioritize a list of the companies you most want to see. We have 100 companies scheduled to attend!

3) Make a business card. Graphic Arts offers a special deal on them for Caltech students – or make some yourself for Career Day, then go to Graphic Arts. If you don't use it now, you will in the future. It impresses employ-

ers.

4) Dress nicely. Wear a pressed/ironed buttoned shirt/blouse, and pressed slacks/pants/skirt (not holey Levis). If you are serious at all about making career contacts, first impressions are key. Dressing nicely demonstrates respect and your seriousness about the company. If you are looking at financial institutions (investment banking, hedge funds, etc.) then dress even better.

5) Prepare questions in advance, then step up and start asking. What do you want to know? Internships? Corporate culture? Career paths? Locations? Research projects? Skills most required?

When the big day arrives, walk around the booths, pick up company literature and job listings, listen to other students as they speak with recruiters, and most importantly—drop off your resume and ask intelligent questions. Once you have successfully navigated Career Day and made some great contacts, follow up—get business cards of the recruiters, and contact them (making sure to remind them who you are—they may have seen hundreds of students during the course of the day). Did I say how IMPORTANT it is to follow up? Only a few students take the time to thank them and express further interest. Be one of the few – believe me, it makes a big difference.

## Companies in Attendance

1010data  
3M  
ActiveMaps, Inc.  
Advertising.com  
Aerospace Corp.  
Air Liquide America  
Akamai Technologies  
Alfred Mann Foundation  
Altera Corp.  
Anritsu Company  
Applied Signal Technology  
Arbor Vita Corp  
Arete Associates  
ATA Engineering, Inc.  
Bechtel Bettis Inc.  
Boeing  
Broadcom Corp.  
Caltech Alumni Fund  
City of Hope Nat'l Medical Center  
CNA Corp.  
Countrywide Financial Corp.  
Crabel Capital Management  
Cree, Inc.  
Dallas Semiconductor/Maxim  
D.E. Shaw Group  
Deutsche Bank  
DreamWorks Animation  
Earthlink, Inc.  
Eaton Corp.  
Ecliptic Enterprises Corp.  
Efficient Frontier  
Ellington Management Group  
EMC Corp.  
Environ International Corp.  
Erler & Kalinowski  
EWT, LLC  
Exxonmobil

Farmers Insurance Group  
Fulcrum Microsystems  
Goldman Sachs & Company  
Green Hills Software  
Guidance Software  
Hamilton Sundstrand  
Heavy Iron Studios  
Infosys Technologies Ltd.  
Inst. for Defense Analyses  
International Game Technology  
ITA Software  
Ixia  
Jane Street Capital, LLC  
KBC Financial Products KLA-Tencor  
Lam Research  
Laserfiche  
Lawrence Livermore Nat'l Lab.  
LEK Consulting  
Lockheed Martin Coherent Technologies  
Los Alamos National Lab.  
Marvell Semiconductor, Inc.  
Microsoft Corp.  
MIT Lincoln Laboratory  
Mozilla Corp.  
Nextwave Broadband  
Northrop Grumman  
Novellus Systems  
NVIDIA  
Optiver Holding BV  
Oracle  
Osha Liang LLP  
Oshkosh Truck Corp.  
Oversee.net  
Picoco LLC

PortBlue Corp.  
Program Analysis & Evaluation  
Quantum Design  
QVT Financial LP  
Rand Corp.  
Raytheon Company  
Raza Microelectronics  
Redback Networks  
Rincon Research Corp.  
Robert Bosch Corp. - RTC  
Schlumberger Tech. Corp.  
SRI International  
State Street IMS  
Susquehanna International Group, LLP  
Teach for America  
Tech Empower  
The Open Planning Project (TOPP)  
Tower Research Capital  
Trex Enterprises Corporation  
US Navy Officer Programs  
Western Asset Management Co.  
Wireless Generation  
WorleyParsons  
Yahoo!

GRADUATE SCHOOLS  
Duke University  
Princeton University  
UCLA Anderson School of Management  
Watson School of Biological Sciences

## Information Sessions

### October 16th

3:30-5PM ExxonMobil Information Session in the Brennen Conf. Room

4:00-6PM Boston Consulting

Presentation in the Avery Library

6:30-8:30PM Ellington Mgmt.

Reception in the Athenaeum

### October 17th

3:30-5PM Oshkosh Information Session in the Brennen Conf. Room

3:30-5PM DE Shaw Information

Session in Avery Library

3:30-5pm Schlumberger Information

Session in the 2nd floor Conf. Room (Student Services Bldg.)

4:00-5:30PM 3M Co. Information

Session in Brennen Conf. Room

### October 18th

3:00-5PM Tower Research

Capital Information Session in Brennen Conf. Room

3:30-5PM Nvidia Information

Session in the 2nd floor Conf. Room (Student Services Bldg.)

4:00-6PM Yahoo Information

### October 19th

Session in Avery Library

4:00-5:30PM MIT-Lincoln

Lab Information Session in Avery Conference Room (upstairs)

### October 20th

12Noon-1PM Goldman Sachs

Information Session in the Brennen Conf. Room

3:30-5PM DE Shaw Information

Session in Avery Library

3:30-5pm Schlumberger Information

Session in the 2nd floor Conf. Room (Student Services Bldg.)

4:00-5:30PM 3M Co. Information

Session in Brennen Conf. Room

## Getting Business Cards

Having business cards is one of the most effective means of marketing yourself and leaving a lasting impression. It provides a means to follow-up at a career fair, interview, meeting, conference, alumni event, etc. The Career Development Center recommends ordering your business cards at Caltech Graphic Resources (call 626-395-6701 for a quote).

# deshaw.C:3141: warning: unused object 'suit'

The D. E. Shaw group is a highly successful investment and technology development firm with an international reputation for financial innovation and technological leadership. Since 1988, we've grown into a number of closely related entities and managed accounts with approximately US \$23 billion in aggregate capital by hiring unusually smart people from a wide range of backgrounds. Current employees include a recent U.S. Women's Chess Champion, a member of the famed MIT Blackjack team, multiple Putnam Fellows, winners of more than 20 International Math Olympiad medals, and a lot of people who are just incredibly strong in CS, EE, math, and finance. They didn't necessarily think of themselves as "financial types," and neither did we. We thought of them as people with extraordinary talent. The firm currently has openings in quantitative analysis, software development, computer

architecture, computational chemistry, and information technology. Our working environment is intense but surprisingly casual. We provide unusual opportunities for growth. And we compensate extraordinary people extraordinarily well.

**We will attend the Fall Career Fair on October 18 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm in Bechtel Mall.**

**Please stop by our booth.**

**Information session October 19, 3:30 pm  
Brennen Conference Room**

To apply for a position, log on to [www.career.caltech.edu/joblistings/index.shtml](http://www.career.caltech.edu/joblistings/index.shtml). If this isn't possible, please send a resume and cover letter stating your GPA and standardized test scores, broken down by section where applicable, to [jobs@deshaw.com](mailto:jobs@deshaw.com).

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Club of the Week

# Science and Medieval History Make a Winning Duo

**BY: TESSA YAO**

What is it about the Middle Ages that fascinates people? For some it is romantic images of castles, knights, and beautiful maidens.

For a group of people at Caltech it is a curiosity to learn, in true scientific fashion, how things were done in a long-ago time – a time that shaped many of the institutions and liberties we benefit from today.

For example, the constitutional law practiced in many Western countries had its foundations in the Magna Carta, an English charter from the year 1215; and many of the courtesies and freedoms that modern women enjoy had their roots in the chivalric code practiced in medieval Europe.

Recognizing this and other significant contributions of the time, the Caltech Medieval and Renaissance Society (CMRS) is a club whose goal is to research and recreate the Middle Ages. Composed of Caltech students and staff, the society focuses on medieval and Renaissance-era Europe, but also includes any culture that had contact with Europe in any time prior to 1600.

So even students with an interest in Chinese or Middle Eastern history can take part in the

Caltech Medieval and Renaissance Society.

The CMRS researches many aspects of life in the Middle Ages, including warfare, weapon-making, blacksmithing, leatherworking, brewing, weaving, and calligraphy. But for the young male members and even some females, the prime attraction tends to be the combat sessions.

CMRS members indulge in several types of medieval combat such as heavy fighting, rapier fighting, archery, and occasionally experiment with siege weapons such as catapults and trebuchets. But it is the heavy fighting with broadswords and shields which was symbolic of the Middle Ages that is the most popular among our members today.

Since the focus of the group is authentic recreation, the goal is to make the fighting as realistic as possible. As members will attest, it is not easy to make a sword that is balanced and handles like a real broadsword.

In the interest of safety, the group members have to wear protective gear. Some of the CMRS members wear armor handcrafted by modern-day blacksmiths, but the club does have loaner armor and helmets available for new members to start out with.

Then they are trained by experienced fighters in the art of broad-



**Caltech Medieval and Renaissance Society members practice broadsword fighting.**

sword fighting, which requires as much strength and skill as any of the other ancient martial arts such as judo and karate. Wikipedia describes this type of fighting as “a serious full-contact sport; moves are not planned or signaled and fighters strike each other with considerable force and speed.”

The Caltech CMRS is associated with a much larger organization called the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). The SCA was founded in Berkeley,

CA in 1966 and has 30,000 members from all around the world.

Interestingly enough, according to the SCA Web site, a high percentage of SCA members are involved in high tech fields – computers, aerospace, high energy physics, etc. which may explain its popularity among Caltech personnel.

The CMRS recently participated in the Caltech Club Fair held on Sept 23rd and had a very positive response from visitors, filling

up two pages of sign-up sheets with names of potential new members. The CMRS Booth displayed various medieval arts and crafts and there was a spectacular broadsword fighting display on the Beckman Lawn.

For more information and photos of club events, visit the CMRS website at <http://voyagers.caltech.edu> or contact Tessa Yao, Caltech Division of Biology, at (626) 395-8336, tessa@vis.caltech.edu.

Mark's Track Prattle

## Caltech Makes Math Cool with Another Season of Numb3rs

**BY: MARK EICHENLAUB**

Caltech likes Numb3rs. This was clear from the moment that President Jean-Lou Chameau took the stage last Wednesday to introduce a screening of an upcoming Numb3rs episode and a panel discussion with sundry Numb3rs cast, crew, and self-infatuated masters of ceremonies. Among the more intelligible of Chameau’s brief utterances was, “Welcome to Caltech, where you really do use math every day. In fact, if you talk to our students, they will tell you it is not only every day, but also every night.” That is not strictly true, because it is currently Friday night, and I have not yet gotten any numbers.

Caltech’s affinity for Numb3rs is not a difficult phenomenon to understand, and can easily be treated formally.

### Proof that Caltech Likes Numb3rs

Postulate 1 (“Legacy of Baltimore”):

Caltech likes money.

Postulate 2 (“Fundamental Theorem of Hollywood”):

Television = money.

Given these postulates, it is a trivial application of the fact that Numb3rs is a television show to demonstrate that FBI Agent David Sinclair is really cool and hard-core. The proof that Dylan Bruno’s heroically-chiseled jowl is a vestige of his MIT undergraduate education is left as an exercise to the reader.

If Caltech is biased one way towards Numb3rs, I am biased the other. First, I don’t like TV. Second, I don’t like math. Third, I will not be won over simply by the dark, enchanting intensity of David Krumholtz’ midnight-dreamy locks.

The episode shown was “Traf-

*“It looks like Charlie would do no better in Ph 125 than I did last year.”*

a continuing play on our perception of probability. Randomness, Charlie Eppes pointed out to his students, implies the lack of a pattern. The lesson continued in the FBI office, where Eppes suggested that seven recent highway attacks, for which the investigators could find no pattern, might simply be random. He claimed that humans always search for patterns where there are none.

This led, unavoidably, to Reeves’ iPod. The iPod in ‘shuffle mode’ never repeats itself, and therefore isn’t random, just like the circumstances of the highway murders didn’t repeat. After the Numb3rs crew exploited this clue to discover that the murders were linked, a series of increasingly-complicated and obscure investigations led them to find the hidden patterns after all.

That’s not to say the show’s mathematics were simply one long disaster. Most of the first half of the show revolved around



**The cast of Numb3rs along with Caltech professor Gary Lorden holds a panel for the show.**

and I’m still not sure if that dude is supposed to be a good guy or a bad guy or what. Since its inception, Numb3rs has become increasingly convoluted as well, adding so many twists and turns it’s study is becoming a legitimate branch of topology. “Traffic,” in addition to a complicated investigation of highway murder and lessons on probability and the application of fluid mechanics to civil engineering, threw in asides on Fleinhardt’s love life, Don Eppes’ disenchantment with the world, a mostly-gratuitous chase scene through an LA car wash, the nature of morality, and social implications of anger and road rage. That’s an awfully hefty list for an hour-long TV spot.

But somewhere between the physicist who sleeps in his office because getting an apartment is too inconvenient and the show’s inexplicable climax (I guess I shouldn’t give it away, but I just don’t understand how they figured

out that a deranged Care Bear was strangling Rainbow Bright’s posse with synthetically-grown organic polymers that decay within minutes in UV radiation), I realized that I was lost in the show’s fast-paced blending of drama and jokes, action and contemplation, math and love. I didn’t expect to say it, I still almost don’t want to say it, but it’s true, and so here it is: this show is good. It makes me feel dirty just to admit it, but after watching “Traffic,” I really do want to know what has Don Eppes in such a funk, and when Charlie and Amita will finally get it on.

I couldn’t identify what it was that pulled me in, but discussion panelist and TV-scientist Bill Nye hit the nail on the probabilistically-unlikely head. “When you’re in love, you want to tell the world,” he began. “There’s a tension between people in love

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

Foxconn Electronics, Inc., a HonHai Precision affiliate, is one of the world's leading providers of mechanical solutions including connectors and cable assemblies. With revenue topping \$30 Billion USD in 2005, the HonHai group continues to outpace industry rivals. Revenue and profits in 2005 came from Foxconn's strong consumer base of the world's leading PC, Consumer, Mobile Phone and Communications OEMs. As we continue to grow, we are seeking an exceptional candidates for our Introductory Technical Sales Trainee opportunities.

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### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVE**

Foxconn understands one of the keys to sustained success and longevity is a concentrated focus on talent 1) recruitment, and 2) development. The objective of this program is to identify talented engineering candidates who have additional potential to become leaders and business contributors at Foxconn, and then put them through a comprehensive six-month training program abroad. Our hope is that through this concentrated effort, these employees will not only gain tremendous skill development, but also an appreciation for Foxconn and the tremendous opportunities the company can offer.

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The FIT Program is an intense six-month effort intended to expose and train participants in the following areas:

- Production
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Quality Control / Quality Assurance
- Design Engineering
- Research & Development
- Finance
- Sales & Marketing

Participants will get a combination of classroom, computer-based training (CBT), and live on-the-job (OJT) experiential learning.

Majority of training will be conducted in China - participants will be required to live, train, and work at one or more of the Asia Foxconn locations. During the training duration, participants may be expected to work six days each week, which is the standard workweek in China and participants will be afforded a ten-day (consecutive calendar days) break with pay.

Prior to the participants traveling to China, the "participant team" will undergo a teambuilding program that will include a company overview and introduction, as well providing the participants an opportunity to get acquainted with each other. This teambuilding program will be up to one week in duration, and conducted at or near one of our major locations in the U.S.



### **DESIRED OUTCOME**

The desired outcome of the program (upon completion) is to "graduate" the participants into the U.S. Foxconn workforce as regular employees. The skills and knowledge they acquire through the FIT program will position them to have an immediate impact on business results in the areas of Sales & Marketing, Design Engineering, or Research & Development.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Education :
- B.S. Engineering Degree (Mechanical Preferred)
  - M.S. Engineering Degree (Mechanical Preferred)
  - M.B.A.

### Preferred extra-curricular:

- Active participation in university sponsored clubs or organizations
- Two Letters of Recommendation - university faculty
- Two Letters of Recommendation - non-university affiliation
- Bi-Lingual (English/Mandarin) useful, not required

### **COMPENSATION**

#### Initial Compensation Package:

- Competitive Annual Salary & Health & Welfare Benefits
- One Round-Trip air-fare to the program location
- One Round-Trip air-fare from program location to the US (optional mid-program break)
- Meal and lodging accommodations
- Visa/Passport assistance

### **PROGRAM EXPECTED START DATE: SUMMER/2007**

### **RESUME SUBMISSION:**

For immediate consideration, please forward resume/CV to Foxconn: [HR.Career@Foxconn.com](mailto:HR.Career@Foxconn.com) referencing job code 07-FIT in the subject line.

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# Things Heat Up at Mannion's

BY: ANDREA DUBIN

What do trips to LA to see distinguished speakers, a cooking class, and the carnival/club fair all have in common? They are all intended to improve the quality of student life and they are all organized by Campus Life. Campus Life is primarily responsible for the nonacademic side of Student Life on campus. They provide services such as housing, resident associates, dining, bookstore, computer store, and child care.

Tom Mannion is the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs for Campus Life and is in charge of organizing these events. While many students know of Mannion's cooking class, his job is actually much more complicated.

"There's actually a very large business component," said Mannion. "We tie together housing, the bookstore, and dining services. We deal with anything having to do with food, including the kosher food plan, and we're involved with the food committee. The housing challenges are hard, there's a very tough line between meeting the trustee's expectations and what the students want."

"Campus life also does a lot of things to enhance culture here at Caltech. The MOSH is involved in taking students to operas, we have an etiquette class with the MOSH, there's a cooking class, and a number of alums call me for advice with cooking. We try to make sure the students see each other by putting together events like the carnival. The alumni association was so impressed with the fireworks this year that they want to double the budget."

Tom Mannion also teaches a cooking class on Thursday nights. It's open to 16 undergraduates, with priority given to seniors.



**Tom Mannion and TA Matt Glassman put the finishing touches on the main course that students prepared Thursday night.**

"It's clearly one of the more popular classes. I'm writing a book, so we'll have our own textbook," said Mannion. "Stephen Hawking will be coming 2nd term next year and the food writer for the LA Times is coming. After ten weeks, their cooking is as good as any upscale restaurant in Pasadena. The ability to teach something is nice, and what I have to offer has a special little niche. Students cook dinner in Jean-Lou Chameau's home for the vice presidents and division chairs. It is a huge opportunity for the students and faculty to interact."

The recent budget cuts shouldn't affect the quality of the student life events. "The amazing thing is that we cut the budget almost 40% last year, and still have more events last year than ever," said Mannion. "In three years we expect to give money back to Caltech to help the general budget."

A lot of the money for these programs comes from donors. The Don Shepard Fund, established by the late Larry Shepard in memory of his son, Don, a former Caltech

student, gives undergraduates the opportunity to do something fun that they might not otherwise be able to afford. Alumni are becoming increasingly interested in the campus life programs and are also making significant contributions to improving student life.

Students can look forward to a large range of student life activities. The distinguished speaker series allows students to attend talks by Nobel laureates, best-selling authors, explorers and celebrated personalities. Every Sunday Mannion invites students over to his house to watch football. He will be inviting each of the houses over for dinner to discuss the south house project and possible plans for the new north houses.

"Anything we can do to take the pressure off and make students realize what a great place this is, that's what it's about," said Mannion. "Unless I hear, 'tech is hell but I enjoy every minute about it', I'm not going to be happy. Sometimes it takes other activities to make them realize that."

# Panel Promotes Math Via Television Show

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

with mathematics and people getting shot at. I think it's cool as heck." Falaci clarified that Numb3rs works because it's about "a very interesting group of people coming together. It's a clash of the university world and the FBI." These worlds are colliding because they occur in two brothers on opposite sides of the link. "We focus a lot on the family," Falluci said.

And it's only going to get better. Throughout the panel discussion, the cast and crew dropped hints that upcoming episodes would contain a self-taught mathematical genius as a foil to Charlie Eppes, a new character who acts as a fictional parallel to Caltech's real-life Dr. Tom Tombrello, and bigger and badder villains, one of whom, someday, might even get away.

The show's mathematical inaccuracies are forgivable, it's naive stereotyping of physicists is benevolent enough to be sufferable, and its intentions, as far as these things go, seem to be in the right place.

"We'd love to see this country being far more interested in science," said Cheryl Heuton, the show's co-creator. It's not just idle talk. The Numb3rs website, [www.weallusemath everyday.com](http://www.weallusemath everyday.com), contains not just information and advertising for the show, but also

math exercises for use by school teachers. I completed an exercise on the famous 'birthday problem' and considered submitting it to Professor Lorden for extra credit, just before realizing that I had turned in a drop card for Ma 112 that very afternoon. And I'll admit, seeing the Red Door Cafe, Millikan Library, "The Fishbowl" in Ruddock House, and occasionally even myself on TV is pretty cool.

The greatest selling point for Numb3rs is its popularization of math. "Traffic's" clarification of some common misconceptions of probability and its taste-test introduction to the science of traffic control were integrated into the show so smoothly the unsuspecting median American won't even know he's being educated as he watches.

Numb3rs, Dr. Chameau informed us, has won the Carl Sagan Science award for promoting public understanding of math and science. The youngest participant in the post-screening question and answer session was a middle-school girl who, in ad-

dition to expressing her finite-but-uncountable love (or alternatively, deification) of David Krumholtz, expressed the one thing that makes Numb3rs worthwhile. "Ever since I saw this show, I've wanted to be better at math," she announced. Well, young lady, me too.

## Software Review

### Mathematica >> Other Tools?

BY: RADHIKA MARATHE

Are you a frosh who gets completely lost when the professor casually says, "Oh, if you can't calculate it manually, just plug it into Mathematica". Are you an upperclassman embarrassed with your knowledge of mathematical softwares? The beginning of the new school year is the perfect time to learn something about these softwares that can be valuable tools during your time at Caltech and beyond. Three softwares popularly used on campus – Mathematica, Maple and Matlab, are briefly introduced below.

#### Development and current versions

Mathematica is a programming language developed and sold by Wolfram Corporation. The current version is 5.2. Maple was developed as a commercial mathematics software in 1981 by a team by the Symbolic Computation Group based in the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada and has been sold commercially by Maplesoft since 1988. The current version is 10. Matlab (MATrix LABoratory) is a computer algebra system created by The Mathworks in 1984 to perform intensive computational tasks better than languages such as Fortran and C. The current version is R2006b.

#### Tools in the toolbox

All these packages can primarily be used for all operations possible with a calculator. This includes

basic algebraic manipulations, matrix operations such as inversion, solving second and third degree polynomial equations, differentiating with respect to any specified variables, indefinite and definite integration plotting in 2D and 3D over a specified range.

Apart from these, computations that may be quite tedious by hand such as factorials of large numbers, factoring polynomial expressions, numerical solutions of differential equations and plotting of vector fields is possible using these. The range of utility for these softwares includes areas such as complex analysis, graphics, statistics and signal processing with the help of Fourier Transforms etc.

For ease of importing and exporting data, all three softwares are compatible with major computing systems and accept data in varied formats such as EPS, GIF, PNG, SVG, XML, HTML, TeX, and RTF etc. At a higher level of computation, these may be integrated with various other programming languages to create components of software systems.

#### Syntax to get you started

Although extensive function lists are available on the internet for each of these packages, the most basic functions are discussed below with examples for the syntax:

**Mathematica:** For basic algebraic manipulations, the expression to be evaluated followed by a Shift+Return gives the answer.

The sign ^ stands for raised to. For example,

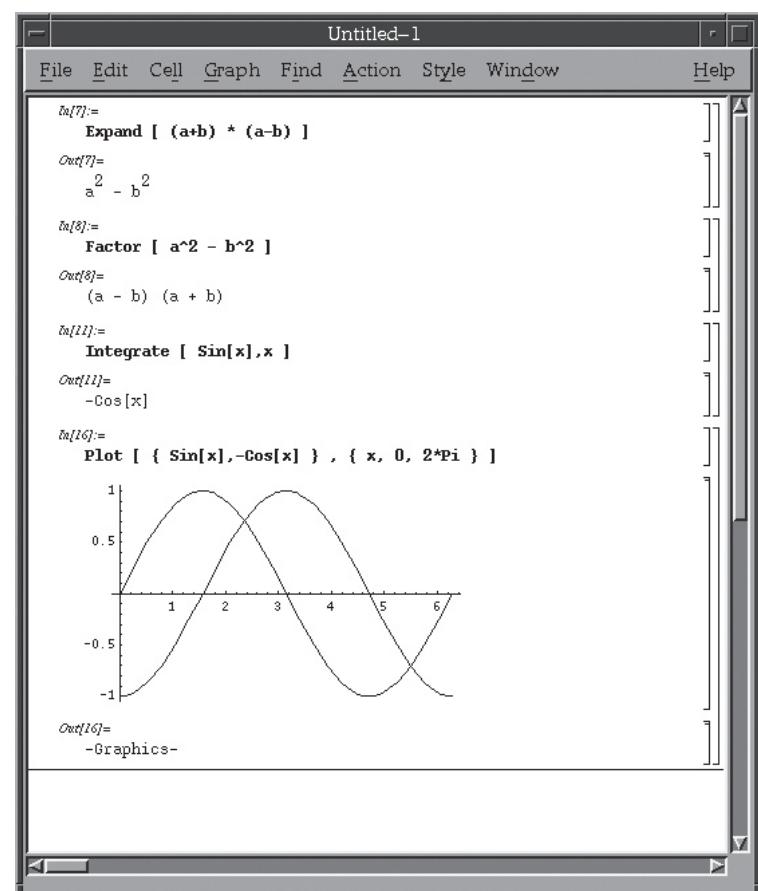
```
50.4+2^3 -> 208
Inverse[{{1,2},{3,4}}] -> {{2,1},{3/2,-1/2}}
Integrate[3x^2,x]
->x^3
Solve[ax^2+bx+c=0,x]
->{{x->(-b+sqrt(b^2-4ac))/2a},{x->(-b-sqrt(b^2-4ac))/2a}}
Plot3D[Sqrt[xy],{x,0,1},{y,0,5}]
```

**Maple:** Maple has two modes of problem entry and evaluation: the document mode (which allows for quick problem-solving with rich-content composition with minimal commands required) and the Worksheet mode (the traditional environment with appearance of a command prompt). The commands given as examples here are for the worksheet mode. The expression to be evaluated followed by Return gives the answer for basic operations.

**Example:**

```
> 123^2 - 29857/120 ->
1785623/120
> sin^3(pi/3) -> 3sqrt(3)/8
> solve((x-2)/a = 1 -> {x = 2 + a}
> diff(tan(x)*sin(x), x) ->
(1+tan^2(x))*sin(x) + tan(x)*cos(x)
> plot3d([xy/(x^2+y^2)], x=-1..1, y=0..0.5)
```

The Document mode has interactive features for most of these operations on the Menu and commands need to be used less frequently.



This screenshot from Mathematica demonstrates its functionality in plotting and symbolic manipulation.

**Matlab** : Once again, simple expressions may be typed in followed by the Return Key to give the calculated result. A major feature of Matlab is that expressions that are non-scalars are stored in the form of arrays and operated on accordingly.

```
> 65*2 -> 130
>(roots of the polynomial x^3-6x^2-72x-27)
p=[1 -6 -72 -27]
r=roots(p) -> returns the roots in the form of a column vector (a vertical single column array)
```

As clear from the above examples, the basic syntax is similar for all three packages. Clicking on the Help Menu or typing help returns a detailed guide on performing any required task.

The software reviewed above may be downloaded by Caltech students at [software.caltech.edu](http://software.caltech.edu).

Photo courtesy of <http://www.astro.uw.edu/ccl/>

$$\begin{aligned} J &= \int_s^{s_*} \{Q^{(0)}(s, x; s') + \varepsilon^2 Q^{(2s)}(s, x; s')\} ds' \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 \bar{\kappa} (s_c - s)^2 Q^{(0)}(s, x; s_c) + \dots \\ &= \int_s^{\hat{s}_*} \{Q^{(0)}(s, x; s') + \varepsilon^2 Q^{(2s)}(s, x; s')\} ds' + \dots \end{aligned}$$

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# Response to Dean Hall

BY: MASON SMITH

Note: This article reflects only the opinions of the author, and does not reflect those views held by Page House, the Tech, or any larger group.

First of all, let me say that upon hearing that Dean Hall had written a response to my article, "Deans Violate the Honor Code", I was pleasantly surprised. Even though it seems as if Dean Hall was compelled to write a response only because he thought my article was "irresponsible" and "just plain wrong", it is refreshing to see that our Dean cares, at least to some extent, about how he is perceived by the undergraduate population.\*

Unfortunately, after reading the article, I couldn't stop myself from laughing hysterically.

The first thing that struck me about the editorial was that, despite its name, it wasn't at all a response. Save for the rather incendiary introduction, the article could've easily been written as is without having read my original editorial.

The article fails to mention specific issues addressed in my article, such as the fact that no one from the House was allowed to see the "history" of Page alcohol abuse being considered by the CRC or to contest any of those charges. He, at best, alludes to the fact that neither Page House nor

any of its members were given any notice of growing concern by the Deans before the sanction, without at all confirming or claiming otherwise.

Dean Hall did mention that the Routing Committee imposed the sanctions as opposed to the dean himself. I will happily concede that point; Dean Hall is in a much better position than I to say who did what, since Page was left out of the loop for much of the process.

My second realization was that the article doesn't adequately explain many aspects of the specific case against Page House, nor define what exactly constitutes "Page House" in this scenario.

I find this especially important because I \*still\* am unaware of these specifics. For instance, when I asked Dean Green during the CRC preliminary what exactly constitutes "Page House", she responded with a rather vague reply which could be accurately summarized as "Depends..."

After reading through it a second and third time, I was further amused by its spins. For instance, Dean Hall states that "A proposal was prepared by Page, and, after several exchanges with the committee, was accepted." However, Page only met with the CRC once, without one of the co-chairs present. The distinction may sound minor, but it's the same difference as simply doing a problem set independently and working with



**Dean Hall has recently come under fire for prohibiting public alcohol consumption in Page House during the summer. The restriction has since been lifted.**

the professor throughout the week to complete the set. When the second co-chair was finally available to meet, we still didn't meet with her; rather, the CRC met independently.

Perhaps the most amusing aspect of the article, though, was Dean Hall's references to establish procedure.

On at least two separate occasions, during meetings with Dean Hall, I've asked him questions about published CRC procedure (for my own knowledge, not as some pop quiz). In both instances, he admitted to not having read the sections of the little Little t dealing with the Honor Code and CRC/BoC procedures. The more recent meeting was toward the start of the current school year. I honestly can't remember the date of the less recent meeting, but at the

latest it was at the start of the summer.

Dean Hall rationalized this in the latter meeting by saying that he was on COSGAA (essentially, the precursor to and creator of the modern CRC) and that he was well aware of the purpose and workings of the CRC. However, his perception of the CRC as a committee that influences major policy flies squarely in the face of all publicly available literature regarding the CRC, which regards the CRC as a board which merely responds to non-academic violations of the honor code.

Furthermore, on multiple occasions, I was directed to the Little t by a CRC co-chair when I asked where I could find more information about CRC specifics. The Little t, of course, presents a different (even if still vague) picture of the CRC from Hall's.

Overarching philosophy aside, Dean Hall's ignorance of CRC procedure shines in his article. For example, he mentions that "often, interviews would also be held with the people involved... but, in the present instance, the history itself was sufficient..." However, the little t specifically says that, during the preliminary investigation, "interviews are held with those involved in the matter reported" and that "at the conclusion of the interview process [my emphasis], the co-chairs will decide if the case will be considered by the full CRC."

As a matter of fact, the little t references nothing besides the interview process itself in the preliminary investigation. Hall's mention of collecting cases from four terms ago lacks even a vague reference in the CRC policy for preliminary procedures. Of course, as I mentioned and Dean Hall confirmed, the full CRC hearing was scheduled before the preliminary (as defined by the CRC) was conducted and even before Page House was notified that there was a case.

Dean Hall essentially argues that there was enough "evidence" to push a full trial without regarding the statements of the defendants. Not only is relevant evidence ignored; rather, the parties in question refused to even attempt to collect it. Is this what Dean Hall is implying when he refers to "appropriate procedure"?

In any case, I again thank Dean Hall for being receptive to discussion about the issue.

## Reflections on Rotation

BY: RADHIKA MARATHE

I confess that my decision to move off campus this year was almost entirely based on having the liberty to cook my food in whatever way I wanted and being able to prepare a dish of choice when I felt like. Having survived on CDS food for a full three terms and hating the very feeling of being hungry by the end of the year, it did seem like a welcome change at that time.

Of course, there was the lingering thought at the back of my mind of not being able to participate in house activities as much as before. Most people from my house will surely want to state for the records that it wasn't one of the most active house members earlier and it should have hardly made a difference to me.

Ironically, it was the free food during rotation week and the week beyond that brought us back to the house and I was surprised at how much I loved being part of the house: the table banging during dinners without caring a damn about how many plates and glasses simultaneously geared up to take their final plunge onto the floor, the (sometimes useful but mostly funny) announcements, the frequent and completely random floating of the President and frosh who just seemed to enjoy getting soaked every day, the movie for rotation and the general socializing that followed dinner.

When I was a frosh during last year's rotation, I had a decent idea about which houses I wanted to rotate into during the first couple of days of rotation and I must admit that I was frankly bored by the time

of the last two or three dinners. I had ended up wondering why in the world could upperclassmen not ask questions beyond our names and majors and maybe the activities we liked doing for fun and the clubs we joined in high school.

But the experience of being on the 'other side' this year was an eye-opener in many ways.

Come to think of it, when you are put in the middle of a group of completely unfamiliar people who look up to you as an upperclassman and leave you to be in charge, the most logical questions to ask would be the ones which get you acquainted better with the tastes and preferences of that person and generally gives you a good idea of whether a person would fit well into the house or not.

Of course, we could have always discussed the latest basketball game with these people but doesn't really tell us much apart from how enthusiastic the dude is about basketball. And I would have probably tried to avoid this conversation altogether cause being a nerdy Techer, I don't follow sports... just kidding.

Well, of all the time-honored Caltech traditions, Rotation definitely changes your perspective towards your house, house members and the Caltech undergraduate community in general like no other. Having blahed blahed about all this for so long, I guess my new responsibility will probably involve trying to keep up the level of interaction I had with my house members over the past couple of weeks, which would be a Herculean task without more free food! Hail Tom Mannion!

## Thanks to the Admin

BY: CRAIG MONTUORI

I'd like to personally thank a few people for some things that happened over the summer. I think more people should be aware of the help we are given from various administration figures whose positive efforts deserve mention.

First, I'd like to thank Dr. Miriam Feldblum for working with us on the health care insurance issue. As the health care survey implies, we're facing more cuts and cost increases for the health care, due to the financial situation that we are still in. The short is that the cuts last year were offset by the large increase in prices for construction materials and fuel costs. The Trustees are extremely insistent that administrators need to balance the books. However, unlike earlier cuts and financial-related changes, we were made aware of the need for these cuts many months before a final decision is to be made. Additionally, Miriam got the Health Committee involved in gathering student views on what aspects of the health insurance coverage are most valued by us.

The fact that more cuts are necessary is unfortunate but is a fact that we have to deal with. The important point is that this was not sprung upon us like many other budget cut decisions, but rather we were part of the decision-making process this time. Some people, including many grad students, are legitimately unhappy

with the fact that these cuts are happening, which is reasonable, but I definitely appreciate the way in which the decisions are being made in this case. I hope other administrators have taken notes on what I believe to be a quite respectful way of making a decision that affects students.

Thank you, Miriam. For those who don't know her, Miriam is coming off of quite a few years as special assistant to former President Baltimore. She is returning now to a full time assignment in student affairs, so I wish her best of luck for the future.

Second, I'd like to thank the MOSH, Cathy Jurca, for her work and interest in increasing interactions between students and faculty. She hosted the previous Open House at Page third term last year, during which we had a chance to talk to administrators and faculty about anything that we had questions about. The next Open House is likely going to be during the week of November 5th, so think about issues that you'd like to bring up. Additionally, she has money to spend on student-faculty interactions that may not be fully utilized. Check it out.

Thank you, Cathy. Also, Cathy is often a voice for the students, so it might be smart to invite her to House dinners to talk about things that you care about. For that matter, consider inviting more faculty members to House dinners from time to time. It never hurts to have more faculty friends.

## The California Tech

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## Letters to the Editor

A minor correction to the article "A Brief History of Rotation". I can say with complete certainty that in 1988 the rotation procedure allowed frosh to list a minimum of four and a maximum of seven houses, with rankings. You could list one house as "1" and the rest as "5,6,7", and you could not be picked into a house you didn't rank.

- Jason Surace, Ricketts c/o '92  
[jason@ipac.caltech.edu](mailto:jason@ipac.caltech.edu)

Ask-a-Prof

Prof. Richard Murray:

**How does being a Caltech undergrad compare to being on the Caltech faculty?**

Things that are the same: the honor system, the “feel” of the campus, the sense of apprehension I get walking down the Olive walk on the first week of class in late September (“am I really going to be able to make it at Caltech?”).

Things that are different: teaching instead of being taught, working “regular” hours, eating at Chandler and the Ath instead of the student houses and BC.

**What website(s) do you frequent?**

Team Caltech wiki, Slashdot.

Professor Nate Lewis:

**How does being a Caltech undergrad compare to being on the Caltech faculty?**

“Basically, it is the same. In each case, when you are starting, it is pass/fail (get tenure or fail), then you get grades (with a low average in either case, one from profs the other from grant agencies), then you get some burnout along the way, in both cases you get to work long hours in lab for not much money, in each case you have to pay for parking, in both cases we never have a winning football team to root for except USC, we both get to collaborate with smart people on our science and engineering problems, and we all get to keep asking the administration for things to make us happier, while we somehow still stay and like it better than anywhere else we could be.”

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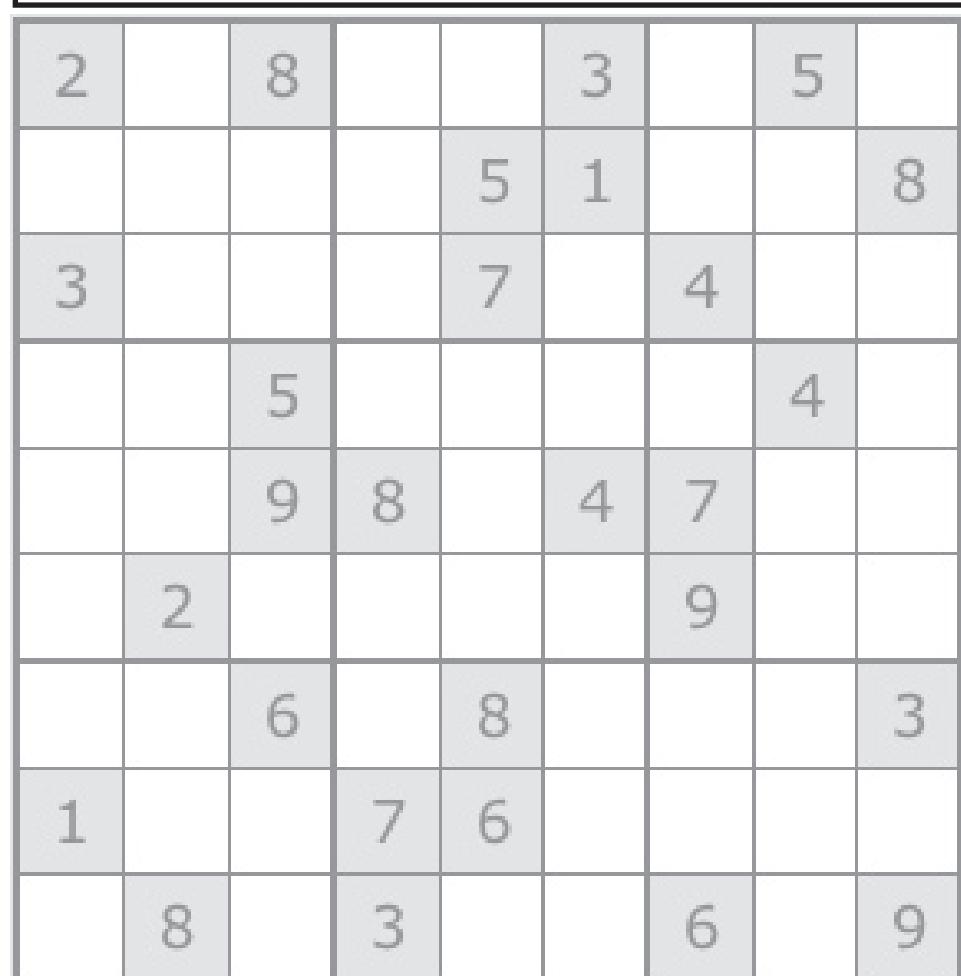
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# Dr. Quark Answers

## Helping you with the power of Science!

Dear Dr. Quark,  
I was wondering what the repercussions of having sex in the Gene Pool are. I am considering doing it, but would like to have your opinion before I make up my mind.

-Dedicated Reader

Do it, assuming you're a guy (which is generally correct 2/3 of the time), and assuming you found a girl (which is correct less of the time.) The worst thing that can happen is you catch some sort of terrible disease (that pool water is pretty sketchy) or fall victim to a similarly nasty side affect, like children. You could also be seen, but all that would lead to is a potentially embarrassing situation with campus security and perhaps some pictures that will follow your around for the rest of your academic career.

On the positive side of things you will be able to tell wonderful stories in your old age to future generations about how you did something patently retarded. Additionally, while it is generally the norm to have sex within the boundaries of the gene pool, I think you should consider the exciting possibilities of having sex outside of it! Not only are the accommodations much more comfortable, but intensely more varied! Considering how reproduction with specimen outside of one's species produces nonviable offspring, I think you would be doing the rest of the world a favor. Carry on sir!

Dear Dr. Quark,  
I think I might have a problem that you could help me with. You see, I spent a year in high school hitchhiking across the

country and had a great time, but I got stuck outside Chicago in February and long story short my left leg is prosthetic. It's pretty realistic so people don't really notice, but I've been thinking of joining the soccer team. Do you think, ethically, I can use my super kicking powers (my knee is spring loaded so that I can kick a ball so hard it catches fire) to destroy opposing teams?

-Ronny Cordova

Forget the ethical ambiguities for now. A super powered knee jerk isn't really that much worse than steroids, and you have the health benefit of not turning out to be like Bob from Fight Club - with unnaturally large mammary glands. I think you should consider the mechanical flaws in your plan. With one drastically over-powered leg you would be forced to run in circles during a match. I could perceive you stealing the ball from an opponent by super kicking him or her in the spleen, only to dribble the ball away at super fast speeds in a large circle, where the same player you had stolen it from would be waiting. Also, I am pretty sure that lighting the ball in play on fire would be considered a yellow card, which means you can only do it once a game. Perhaps a better than asking yourself "Should I join the soccer team and use my super fantastic kicking power?" is asking yourself "Why do I want to win?" What is your mad obsession with winning? Sports at Caltech is not about winning. It's about not winning...I mean having fun.

### RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!

Fill out demographic, personality and relationship style questionnaires and attend three group sessions in Pasadena for one hour each, with follow up- all confidential. Must be single/never-married, heterosexual, over 18 and under 40. \$80 for all three sessions. Labs are located in Pasadena. Contact: eHarmonyLabs@eharmony.com.

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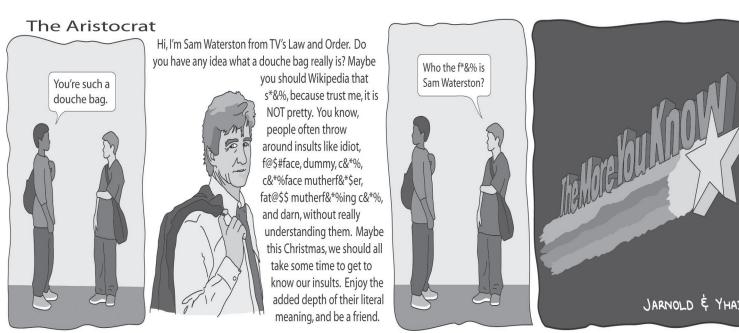
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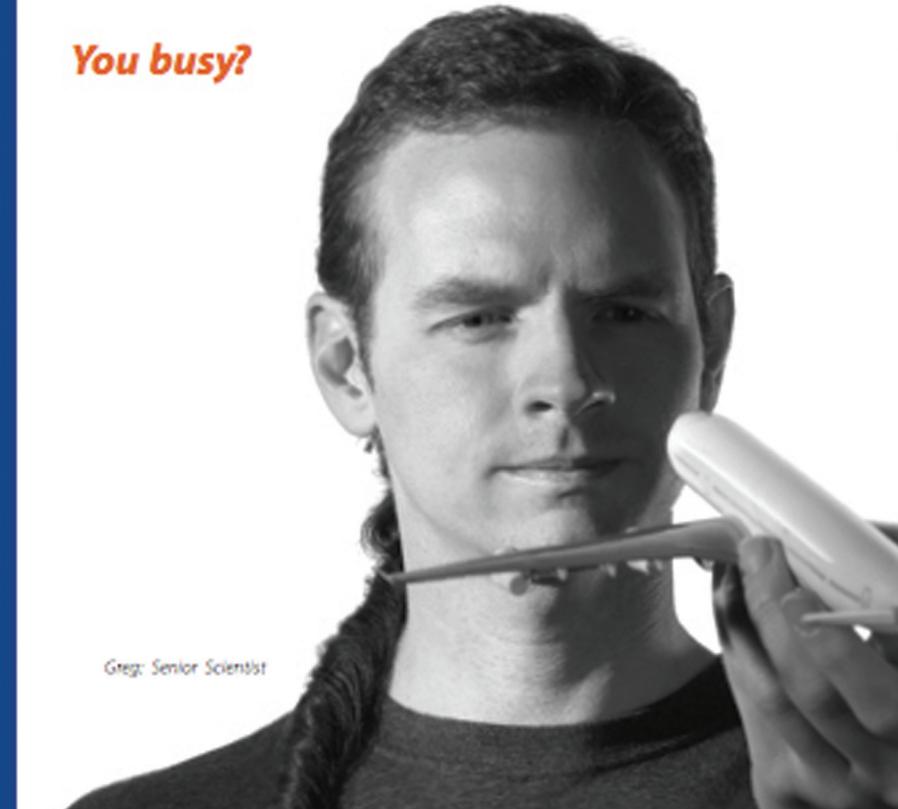
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