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## Open House Garners Student Input

BY: NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

Although the Open House, held in the Ruddock Courtyard on Wednesday, was an informal discussion of the proposed mural policy, many felt that it was a productive meeting that will have some impact on the issue.

Some of the concerns that were voiced during the Open House include the new draft's regulatory tone, its willingness to place more emphasis on the comfort of Caltech's visitors rather than of its students, as well as the way that censorship of mural content would be defined.

Jeff Kranski, President of Dabney, noted, "[The Open House] is a good idea because there was a lot of student uproar over the draft. It's always good to bring together faculty and students to discuss issues."

The view was shared by Tom Mannion, the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, who stated, "I don't think that students realized how much of a dialogue this is. After we are done discussing this, we can put together a revised version of the policy."

Indeed, only two days after the Open House, the Stewardship Committee has revised the proposed mural policy to incorpo-



Students ask the Master of Student Houses, Cathy Jurca, questions about the new mural policy during the Open House last week.

rate some of the issues that were brought up during the meeting.

Among the central concerns voiced during the Open House was the extent to which students will have a say in the issue. Currently, each house has its own mural policy. If the draft is passed, some of the houses' power will be removed. Both the students and administration, however, acknowledged that the student input into the operation of houses is significant.

Mannion noted that "the whole

model [of student governance] under which houses operate seems to be working very well" and reassured that the proposed policy is only intended to establish more collaboration between the students and the administration.

Some students, however, questioned the intent of the draft. John Hasier, member of Blacker, argued that "The basic overtone of the draft is [that] when it comes down to it, [the administration] will take charge – it does not trust

us to make rational decisions."

Many students found the policy restrictive in terms of the content that will be allowed in murals, arguing that the comfort and self-expression of Caltech students are more important than the comfort of the visitors of Caltech, who only experience the murals for a limited amount of time.

However, Mike Woods, Secretary of the Interhouse Committee, pointed out that the need for a change in the policy stems from legal premises. "It is a question

of what is legally required from Caltech," said Woods.

Catherine Jurca, the Master of Student Housing, further reassured that the draft is preliminary and is open to reasonable changes. For one, she pointed out that although some regulations may be placed on the content of murals in dining halls and other public spaces, they will not be completely prohibited, as it states in the original draft.

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## Huge Party for 2007

BY: HAROLD MARTIN

On Saturday, January 13th, Caltech will celebrate the reopening of the South Houses with the school's largest party in recent history. The event is also widely seen as an opportunity to reignite the Interhouse Party tradition of previous years.

"We're bringing back the (Interhouse) tradition and the South Houses at the same time," said Tom Mannion, Assistant V.P. of Campus Life. The party will start in the afternoon with a campus wide barbecue, followed by a concert and a short fireworks show, and then the opening of the House parties.

The four South Houses will each host a party in their courtyards. They will be paired with one of the North Houses and Avery for construction, using pairings determined by the InterHouse Committee (IHC). "We had some conditions, and everything fell into place quite nicely," said IHC Chair Craig Montuori in an email

interview. The current pairings are Blacker and Avery, Dabney and Page, Fleming and Ruddock, and Ricketts and Lloyd.

According to ASCIT Social Director Chris Gonzales, the house pairings are intended to unite the community and to have as many people as possible working to build the parties, since construction cannot begin until the South Houses are reopened in December. Gonzales also said that there would not be an overarching party theme, instead each house will decide on its own theme so that "each party expresses the individuality of the houses."

Each of the four parties will receive \$5,000 for construction from Housing and an additional \$2,500 for food and beverages from Tom Mannion's office. Other elements of the party, such as the barbecue, fireworks, and alumni reception are expected to draw funds from other sources, although fundraising work is still being done. The total cost of the party is expected to exceed \$85,000.

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## Damaged Cable Results in Power Outage



Despite Caltech's efforts to provide redundancy, a power outage struck the morning of October 30th, 2006. The story on page 5 explains how this event occurred and preparations for future incidents.

Margo Marshak Resigns

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# The Outside World



BY: VIBHA LALJANI

## DONALD RUMSFELD, RESIGNS, MAY FACE CRIMINAL CHARGES IN GERMANY

The US-based Centre for Constitutional Rights, representing a Saudi detained in Cuba and 11 Iraqis held in Baghdad, has launched a complaint against former US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

German law allows the pursuit of cases originating anywhere in the world. The centre made a similar request in 2004 but German prosecutors dropped that case.

The Centre for Constitutional Rights claims that Mr. Rumsfeld was highly influential in the abuses committed at Guantanamo Bay and at Abu Ghraib jail in Baghdad. The lawyer group has argued that Mr Rumsfeld personally approved of torture to be used to extract information from the prisoners.

A spokesperson for the group said that their complaint will be filed to German federal prosecutors on Tuesday. The prosecutors will have to again decide whether the complaint should be heard or not.

Mr. Rumsfeld resigned following Republican losses to the Democrats in the US mid-term elections.

The Pentagon has not yet commented on the issue. The US denies that any torture has taken place at Guantanamo Bay and has defended its interrogation techniques.

Abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib was brought to attention after photographs of the incidents were released and published.

## US VETOES UN RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL

## ASCIT Minutes

Minutes from the Side Room in Chandler  
Wednesday, November 08, 2006

Present Officers: Todd Gingrich, Jean Sun, Csilla Felsen, Nate Donnellan, Chris Watson, Vickie Pon, Chris Gonzalez, Craig Montuori, Jon Senn, RJ Krom

### 1. Funding Requests

\* Matt Glassman from the Tech will want to ask for funding for a camera that the photographers can use for the Tech. Jon reported that there are more photographers on the Tech staff now, most of which don't have very good cameras. The camera they are looking at that other university newspapers use will cost ~\$1.2K. We will wait for Glassman to come to our next meeting to discuss this funding further so we can ask him more questions.

### 2. FDAL Duties

\* The cart for the movie library was ordered over a week ago. Watson is just waiting for the cart to come in before setting up the ASCIT movie library in the Cofeouse.

\* Craig said he's still working on the key or at least access to the elevator in Winnett so the movie library can be stored upstairs during the daytime.

\* Watson will pass out the ASCIT Staff Awards soon. Jon suggested getting a Tech photographer to take a picture of him presenting

## ATTACK ON GAZA

The United States vetoed on Saturday a UN Security Council resolution urging an immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and condemning an Israeli attack there that killed 19 Palestinian civilians.

Nine of the council's 15 members voted for the measure, while four (Britain, Denmark, Japan and Slovakia) abstained. But the "no" vote cast by US Ambassador John Bolton — his second since he arrived at UN headquarters in August 2005 -- was enough to kill the resolution.

The Hamas-led Palestinian government said that the veto depicted that the US backed Israel's action. But US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the resolution that was backed by Arab, Islamic and nonaligned nations, and formally proposed by Qatar — served "a one-sided political agenda" and included an unsubstantiated claim Israel had violated international law. "We do not believe the resolution was designed to contribute to the cause of peace," she said in a statement.

## PS 3 SELLS OUT AT LAUNCH

Electronic stores in Japan sold PlayStation 3 consoles after thousands of gamers stood queued for long in the cold to buy them. Some gamers were turned away even before 7am local time, when the shops opened. The console officially went on sale on November 11. However, Sony only made 100,000 machines available on the first day. Instead of opening the stores at midnight, lotteries decided which gamers in the queue would get to buy first.

The PlayStation 3 is being sold in two configurations. The more expensive version, priced at over \$500, has a 60GB hard drive and wi-fi on board. The cheaper ver-

one of the Staff Awards.

### 3. Possible Funding for Student Morale Projects

\* Vickie reported that the Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee (SFAC) has been meeting frequently to come up with a good tuition recommendation for next year. A draft of the final recommendation is in process.

\* During meetings, there was a lot of talk and enthusiasm (especially from the faculty, one of whom invented the idea) about creating a fund for the purpose of increasing student morale. This proposal would help fund some events or projects that would boost student morale on campus. Although this kind of fund can't be proposed by the SFAC, Vickie said it seems possible that if students were interested, they could create another committee or group that could come up with a project proposal that can be presented to the finance office.

\* Examples include events (carnivals, concerts, etc.), funding for finishing part of the SAC, or anything else substantial that we want.

\* Members of the BoD commented that this seems unfeasible because students may not be capable of coming up with a "good enough" proposal.

\* Many members of the BoD agreed that events like concerts don't increase morale. However, changes like a decrease in tuition or housing costs would make more students happy. A lot of people would feel better if we just didn't have to pay as much to be here.

\* Todd and other members of

sion has a 20GB hard drive and lacks the wi-fi.

## INTEL SUPPORTS VIETNAM IN A \$1 BILLION DEAL

Vietnam's ambitions for economic success have been given a boost after Intel said it will triple investment in the country.

The world's largest chipmaker, Intel, will invest \$1 billion building two production plants in a science park outside of Ho Chi Minh City.

In February, Intel said it would spend \$300m to develop a single plant. At the time, Intel's commitment to the fast-growing nation was the biggest investment by a US firm in Vietnam.

## HUMILIATED BOYS SUE OVER BORAT

Two fraternity boys from a Southern Carolina University want to make a lawsuit against 'Borat' over their drunken appearance in the movie. The legal action filed on their behalf claims that they duped into appearing in the movie "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan," in which they made racist and sexist comments on camera. The lawsuit says that the young men "engaged in behavior that they otherwise would have not engaged in".

'Borat' follows the adventures of comedian Sacha Baron Cohen's Kazakh journalist character and his comic encounters as he travels across the US and mocks Americans.

The lawsuit claims that in October 2005, a production crew took the students to a bar to drink to "loosen up" before participating in "a documentary to be shown outside of the United States."

Compiled from BBC and CNN

the BoD made the argument: Why do the student's have to pay for things like fixing the SAC or morale-boosting things? Why doesn't the administration just do things like that for us? It doesn't make sense that we had things taken away from us (like the SAC), and now we have to \*apply\* for ourselves to fix it.

\* RJ pointed out that he agreed with Vickie that the money seems accessible, and we shouldn't pass up the opportunity to create a great project proposal from which the student body could benefit.

### 4. Student Affairs

\* Todd is going to meet with Margo's Student Affairs Committee soon.

\* An announcement will be made soon about the plans of how Margo's job will be filled.

\* President Chameau asked Todd and the BoD to suggest undergrads for a committee that will examine what is wanted for the Student Affairs Office that will meet through March. The BoD collectively made tentative suggestions to Todd.

### 5. World AIDS Day

\* Jean said the Caltech Pre-Med Association (CPMA) and the Caltech Y are hosting a World AIDS Day event on Dec. 1. Funding from the Caltech Y and the GSC has already been obtained. Jean asked for \$200 from ASCIT to help fund food costs. Vote: Funding of \$200 was granted to CPMA for World AIDS Day (9Y/0N/1A).

Respectfully submitted,  
Vickie Pon

# Announcements

## Caltech Gradiators 2006 Event Opens to Everyone

BY: EVANS BONEY  
GSC SOCIAL CHAIR

The GSC Social Committee is proud to present Gradiators 2006 to the Caltech community. Gradiators is a Caltech tradition that goes back some 13 years, traditionally pitting Grad students against one another in all the wackiest of semi-athletic competition. This year, however, the event will also be open to undergraduates, and we are encouraging inter-house rivalries.

This year's Gradiators will take place on Sunday, December 3 beginning at 12pm. Lunch will be provided to the attendees, and beverages will also be provided throughout the day. Think of it as a good study break during reading period.

Gradiators games will include variations on traditional sports such as kickball, volleyball, or dodgeball; traditional "beverage games" such as "beverage pong" ("beverages" will be provided); and team-problem-solving puzzle games. For more information

about Gradiators games, check out <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~gsc/gradiators/>

Get together with your house, major, option or form a team with your friends; the only rule is that teams must have at least 8 members. Team captains must register their team by Thanksgiving by emailing [boneye@gmail.com](mailto:boneye@gmail.com) (no roster required, only a team name). Don't have a team? Do the same thing, and state clearly that you don't have a team. There are likely to be a few hodgepodge teams running amuck.

If you are interested in helping to plan, run, or ref for Gradiators 2006, weekly meetings will be held at Broad Cafe on Fridays at 3:30pm. Beverages will be provided. If you are unable to attend, but still have suggestions, please feel free to email [boneye@gmail.com](mailto:boneye@gmail.com).

Volunteers are also needed for Gradiators. If you are interested in free lunch, beverages, etc., but not too excited about the actual games, email [boneye@gmail.com](mailto:boneye@gmail.com) as a volunteer.

*Commentary on Page 6*

## Students Sought for Student-Faculty Conferences

BY: CSILLA FELSEN  
ARC CHAIR

The Student Faculty Conference (SFC) is happening this year. Time to get enthused! The SFC happens every other year and is hosted by the Academics and Research Committee (ARC) with support from ASCIT. Committees representing each of the options will be meeting throughout the year to discuss what is good and bad about the option; then the committees propose, and often times implement, changes.

This year we not only have committees for other hot topics such as Workload/Student Morale/Student-Faculty Interactions and the Honor Code, two new committees were created to support Caltech in the WASC Accreditation Process: Undergraduate Education and Undergraduate Research, making this SFC especially important.

A couple weeks ago, ARC selected committee chairs for each of the 14 committees and has since then required that those committees select student and

faculty representatives. Feel free to contact any of the committee members throughout the year if you want to give them input; a list of the members for each of the committees is posted on the ARC website: <http://donut.caltech.edu/~arc/sfc.html>

To give you a gauge for their progress thus far, some of the committees have already held a preliminary meeting and the rest are prepping for their first meeting. As they send us summaries of their committee progress, we will post that information on our website as well. The tentative date for this year's SFC is Thursday, April 5, 2006, and traditionally there are no classes held on the date of the actual conference. From now until then the committees will have about three to four meetings, and will probably be asking you for your feedback!

If you have any questions about how you can get more involved, have a concern with the tentative date for the conference, or want to find out more about the SFC, feel free to contact ARC Chair Csilla ([csilla@caltech.edu](mailto:csilla@caltech.edu)).

## Diwali-Festival of Lights

BY: UDAY KHANKHOJE  
PRESIDENT OF OASIS

Friday, November 17, 2006, 6:30 PM at Dabney Hall & Gardens

While traveling is a great way to experience the world, Caltech members are fortunate to have so many people from around the world studying here. In addition to studying, international students bring a variety of cultural activities to campus for us to enjoy.

The Organization of Associated Students from the Indian Sub-

tinent (OASIS) invites you to join them for their colorful and lively celebration of Diwali. In addition to Indian dance, including performances of Dandiya & Panjabi Bhangra, you will be able to view traditional Indian floor decorations (Rangoli), use Mehndi to color your body, or just enjoy some Indian snacks. You do not want to miss this fantastic annual event.

Sponsored by OASIS with funding from the GSC, the Student Affairs Program Fund and ISP.

# Marshak Resigns as Student Affairs VP

BY: CHANDRA BARNETT

In a surprise bulletin on November 2nd, Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau announced the immediate retirement of Margo Post Marshak, Caltech's VP for Student Affairs. Marshak has provided support for Caltech's student body since 2002, making many contributions to student-faculty relations, and her departure will be felt throughout the community.

Since his arrival at Caltech, President Chameau has placed a particular emphasis on treating Caltech as a community of individuals, and taking advantage of its small size and close-knit nature.

To this end, a permanent successor for Marshak will not im-

mediately be selected. Instead, Chameau has requested the formation of a committee which will study Caltech's unique needs, and how they can best be served by the Student Affairs department.

"Dr. Chameau has recognized that generally campuses have areas that deal with the academic life separated from the 'campus life,' referring to non-academic areas," ASCIT President Todd Gingrich explains.

"At Caltech these lives clearly merge into each other, so the committee is expected to look into ways we can structure our student affairs department to better mirror and support this merging of academic and nonacademic lives."

The new committee, expected to submit its report in March, will draw its membership from all areas of the Caltech community.

Two undergraduate representatives, to be selected by Gingrich and IHC Chair Craig Montuori, will join graduate students, faculty members, and staff in compiling a new vision of Caltech Student Affairs.

In the interim, Dean of Students John Hall will serve as the Acting Vice President for Student Affairs. In addition to overseeing the day-to-day operations of the many divisions which manage student services, he will work closely with President Chameau and Provost Paul Jennings to direct the operations of the investigative committee.

## Huge Party in the Works

**Party will be reminiscent of Interhouse parties of old**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One key element of the party is the unprecedented number of Caltech alumni expected to attend. Said Gonzales, "It's an opportunity to bring back alums and reconnect with students." Various alumni organizations are already involved in supporting the party, and are expected to create a photo display of Interhouse throughout the years that will be presented along the Olive Walk.

Mannion asserted, "I can't overestimate how much (Interhouse) means to alums. We're trying to restore one of the grand traditions." Interhouse was the most important social event at Caltech and was listed in Playboy as one of the top parties in the nation until it was shut down in 1989 after it grew out of control.

The safety of the party attendees and the well-being of the campus are important concerns in restoring Interhouse. "There is a lot of money invested in the South House Renovations, and there's no way we are going to trash the Houses right after getting back into them," said Montuori, who also encouraged students to ensure that the parties were properly cleaned up and did not place an undue burden on Maintenance.

Montuori declared, "We're pulling out all of the stops for this party."

## Students Advance in Speaking Contest

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

Seven students advanced in the Perpall speaking competition after presenting their Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) research last week.

Finalists Evan Gawlik, Alex Huth, Andrew Kositsky, Matthew Lew, Diana Lin, Po-Ling Loh, and Arturo Pizano will present their research again in January for the top three cash prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$200.

The project topics ranged from protein folding and cell signaling pathways to high-resolution optics and plate tectonics.

Evan Gawlik, a freshman who participated in SURF as an Ax-line scholar, researched the three-body problem, the classical mechanics quagmire of determining the mutual gravitational attraction between three masses. Gawlik compared two numerical methods of approximating solutions.

Said Gawlik, "I like applied math, and this was very applied math."

Junior math major Andrew Kositsky has been studying a problem in plate tectonics since his sophomore year. His research in the time dependence of slip on a fault can be applied to how stress builds up, much like in the Dec 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake that triggered a tsunami that cost the lives of over 200,000 people.

"By understanding where stress

is building beneath the surface, we can better understand when and where the next giant earthquake is likely to take place," said Kositsky.

Matt Lew, a junior in electrical engineering, contributed to a device to take high-resolution pictures of transparent objects by measuring the phase of light rather than its intensity.

"With our technique, we can take pictures of living cells without having to stain them," said Lew.

Lew helped in the testing of the device, which measures the very small difference in the phase of light after it has been reflected off an object. In Lew's case, the object of consideration is a living cell, but he hinted that the same technology could be used for human vision correction.

"In principle, you could use this to figure out the quality of someone's lens in an eye, and then figure out how the contact lens should be made."

The Dorris S. Perpall award emphasizes the public speaking aspect of the SURF presentation, rather than the actual research. Judges were asked to rate the speakers on criteria such as how well they had captured the interest of the audience, whether they were confident in presentation of self and material, and their ability to field questions from the audience.

## WANTED: LOTS OF STUDENT INPUT

**WHEN:** Monday, Nov. 13, 2006 -- 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Health Educator's office, CSS Bldg., room 248  
RSVP: ext. 2961 or email [jcurtis@caltech.edu](mailto:jcurtis@caltech.edu)

**WHY:** Discuss C-store food options; Winter term alcohol/drug survey, including incentive prizes, and health topics on your minds!

Learn more at [www.healtheducation.caltech.edu/shac.html](http://www.healtheducation.caltech.edu/shac.html)  
Snacks provided!

## Students Give Feedback on Mural Policy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mannion also noted that keeping murals in individual rooms may not be an issue if a special permission is obtained from the Housing.

The draft of the proposed policy was drawn up by Jurca in response to complaints received from the Trustees, staff, parents, and visitors of Caltech.

"They're worried about offensiveness, about deterioration. They say that murals make houses look dirty, and they want white walls," explained Jurca.

The draft under consideration prior to the Open House, which can be found on [http://www.housing.caltech.edu/undergrad/mural\\_policy.asp](http://www.housing.caltech.edu/undergrad/mural_policy.asp), proposes to make it necessary that students notify the Housing Office before creating a mural and gives administration the final say in what murals are considered offensive and must

be removed. It further states that certain public spaces in North and South Houses, including lounges, dining rooms, and their entryways, must stay free of murals, with exception of those already in place in the North Houses. In addition, the draft specifies that murals in students' rooms will be allowed but must be removed after the students vacate the room.

The policy was further discussed at the Stewardship Committee meeting on Friday, where the draft was revised to remove the section prohibiting murals in common areas and add a requirement to include Tom Mannion in all discussions regarding creation of murals in such areas.

The draft will be further revised before it is finalized and is expected to go into effect before the reopening of the South Houses.

**"It's one thing to write a business plan, it's another to execute it."**



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# Caltech Suffers Power Outage

BY: CHANDRA BARNETT

With thousands of sensitive pieces of equipment, ranging from laboratory refrigeration units to the computers which comprise the IMSS network, Caltech must have detailed contingency plans for maintaining electrical power even when the municipal power supply is compromised.

Late last month, Facilities Management was forced to put one of these recovery plans into action. At 04:18:51AM on 30 October, an event occurred on one of the three 10MW power lines which supply Caltech with power from the city.

CIT2, the second-oldest of the lines which come into campus from Pasadena Water and Power (PWP), experienced a short circuit and fused underground, causing a brief power shutoff to most of the north half of campus.

Power resumed in a matter of seconds, due to Caltech's automatic throwover switches, which began supplying power from CIT1 to North Campus after a brief delay. However, disruptions to campus services were widespread and some persisted for several hours.

Barry Prew, electrical engineer with Facilities Management, outlined the process which was set in motion by the outage.

"When the voltage drops at the substation," he explained, "we have throwover equipment which senses that, and starts counting down." Since a power failure

might be caused either by an on-campus equipment problem or an event at PWP, the local throwover switches start with a 5-second delay.

In the event of a PWP outage, this allows the city's own throwover equipment to begin operating. "If they throw over, and then we throw over," said Prew, "then everybody winds up in the wrong position."

If power does not come back on within 5 seconds, "then we know the problem is on our side," Prew said. At this point, the throwover system begins to transfer power to the backup line. Substation #1, which supplies all of the campus buildings south of San Pasqual, uses CIT1 as its primary supply and CIT2 as its backup.

Substation #2, serving all of the north buildings except for Broad Center, draws its primary power from CIT2, and uses CIT2 as a failover supply. CIT3, the newest of the lines, supplies only Broad Center at this time. However, says Prew, Facilities Management is currently installing new equipment, slated to be operational in December, which will allow Substation #1 to use CIT3 as a secondary failover.

In Monday morning's event, the failure occurred on campus, so the throwover process began just five seconds after the cable shorted. Within fifteen seconds, power was restored all over north campus.

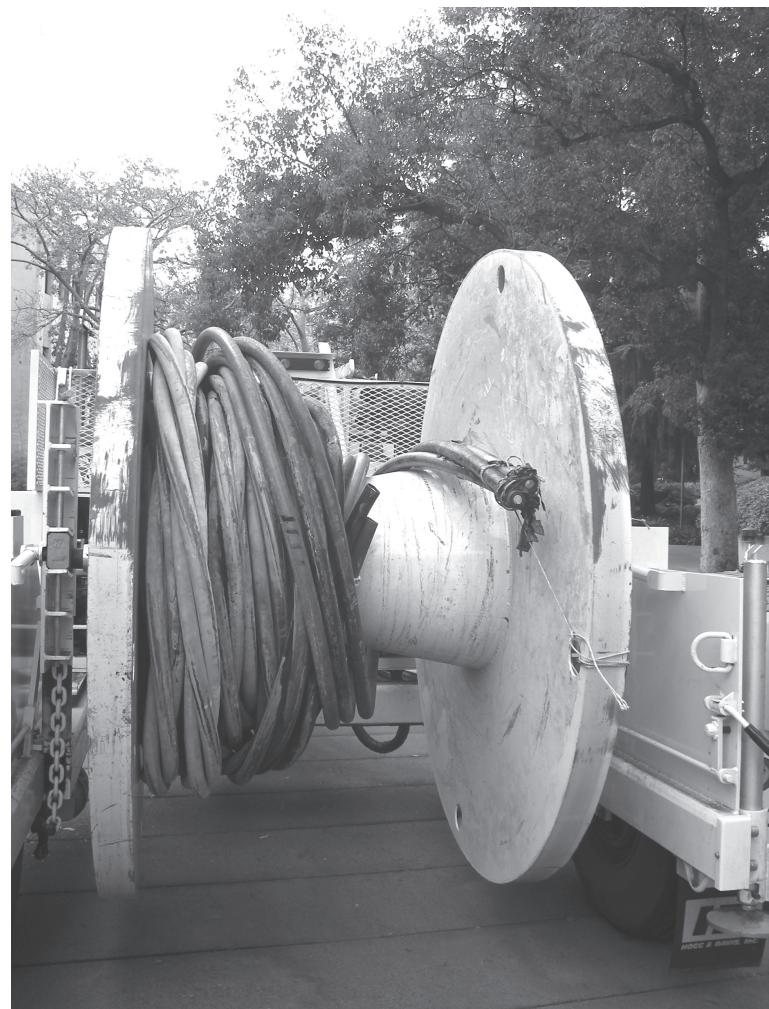
However, this was only the beginning for Facilities Manage-

ment, IMSS, and the many other departments who supply utilities and services to campus. Systems affected by the outage included the Caltech Cogeneration Plant, on-campus water pumping stations, and IMSS internet services.

IMSS experienced the longest-lasting outage, with parts of campus remaining without connectivity for nearly 4 hours. At fault was one of the central IMSS routers, which directs network traffic for buildings along Holliston and Hill Aves. Voice and Data Networks Administrator John Dundas explained "All of our servers are on UPS (uninterruptible power supply) and generator. [However,] what did go down was the central routers which are out in [the affected] buildings."

Although all of the routers are designed to recover automatically after a power interruption, one experienced a hardware failure during the outage. "It is unclear," said Dundas, whether the power fluctuation caused the hardware problem, or was merely an unhappy coincidence. However, the malfunction left the router unable to reboot itself properly, leaving Braun, Marks, and other buildings on that block temporarily without network access.

Dundas himself became aware of the problem at 6am, and a team was in place diagnosing the problem within half an hour. By 8am, the faulty hardware had been identified and replaced, and the network was back up and running



The damaged cable extracted by PWP employees

in time for the 9am opening of campus offices.

Despite the network hiccups and the brief water pressure failure, the switcheroo process itself went quite smoothly. Facilities Management is already taking steps to make any future events

even more painless. In addition to the extension of CIT3, and the installation of a secondary bank of stepdown transformers at Substation #1, the department will take a closer look at the systems which experienced more prolonged outages.

## Movie Review

# Babel Fails to Meet Director's Previous Masterpieces

BY: HARRISON STEIN

An upside to job interviews is that occasionally, you'll get a free trip to New York. The upside to being in New York is that sometimes, you can see a movie that's only shown in 7 theaters and isn't released nationally for another month. The upside to seeing a movie one month early is that if it isn't up to par, you can tell your friends to avoid it so the film never has a chance to steal their money.

Because his last two films, *Amores Perros* and *21 Grams*,

were borderline masterpieces, it's tough to stomach that *Babel*, the new epic from young director Alejandro González Iñárritu, is essentially a dud.

Brad Pitt plays a man vacationing in Morocco when his wife (Cate Blanchett) is struck by an inadvertent bullet. Meanwhile, his kids are still in San Diego under the care of their Mexican housekeeper. She wants to attend her son's wedding but cannot leave the kids by themselves, leading to a dicey situation.

The identity of the Moroccan gunman is quickly revealed,

sparking another plotline involving family, honesty and the impact of terrorism on the Arab world. Finally, in Japan, a deaf teenager desperately tries to lose her virginity leading to a bizarre yet subtly tragic outcome.

Iñárritu experimented with a unique Pulp Fiction-esque style in *Amores Perros*, telling how one event impacted three separate plots with three separate casts of characters, and it worked brilliantly. The stories fit together majestically, but to be honest, they were good enough to stand alone.

In *21 Grams*, Iñárritu got a little too creative by unnecessarily jumbling a similar plot. Nonetheless, the performances by Naomi Watts, Benicio Del Toro and Sean Penn were simply too hard to deny and the film was a scalding tour-de-force. While *Babel* is more polished than the indie *Amores Perros* and is more coherent than the muddled *21 Grams*, it lacks the soul of its predecessors, leading to a dull and unsatisfactory experience.

The stories in *Babel* are inextricably linked, although the connection is much weaker and less

profound than in its predecessors. The best of the four stories is the plot with the Mexican housekeeper, as the young director seems very comfortable filming in his home country. While the story is slightly predictable, it is still captivating and the conclusion strikes a blistering chord. The racial divide between the white children and the Mexican wedding guests is disturbing but the story touches on a number of important social issues.

None of the other three stories work particularly well, as there

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## Finance Experiment Continues

On Tuesday, November 7, portfolio managers and investors (32 managers and 73 investors, all of them Caltech students) participated in the fourth round of the financial-markets experiment conducted by CLEF. The above table summarizes the funds' performance in this round; fund managers are identified by names of minerals. The DowTech is a fixed portfolio of assets and cash, and provides the measure of return if managers started with that portfolio and held on to it. All funds actively traded in this round. For more details, if you want to participate in the experiment as an investor, or if you would like to see how the managers performed in the previous rounds, see the CLEF webpage at <http://clef.caltech.edu/exp/dp/index.html>

Fund##	Returns*	Volume**	Residual (\$)***	Risky*#
DowTech	0.57	NA	NA	86.92%
Albite	1.25	4.28%	198.71	47.98%
Alexandrite	0.96	19.95%	787.06	109.86%
Allanite	1.84	2.03%	124.41	99.36%
Alunite	0.38	1.88%	46.76	99.98%
Amazonite	1.40	3.71%	187.20	114.23%
Amblygonite	1.70	6.60%	386.01	89.47%
Amosite	0.47	1.81%	49.01	90.28%
Andalusite	1.33	1.08%	52.91	104.64%
Anthophyllite	0.45	2.03%	54.55	101.73%
Atacamite	0.11	1.25%	22.37	8.47%
Barite	-0.06	0.46%	6.37	29.38%
Bassanite	1.80	1.09%	65.96	99.93%
Beidellite	0.58	1.37%	40.82	55.49%
Bementite	0.65	3.20%	102.01	11.92%
Bentonite	0.34	1.12%	27.04	77.15%
Bertrandite	1.94	0.90%	57.66	115.29%
Biotite	0.64	1.19%	37.33	99.60%
Birnessite	-1.02	1.04%	0.00	-4.27%
Bloedite	-0.50	1.86%	4.84	-73.78%

Fund##	Returns*	Volume**	Residual (\$)***	Risky*#
Boracite	0.65	3.30%	104.29	89.15%
Calcite	-0.07	3.80%	51.06	4.79%
Carnallite	2.06	2.32%	155.34	119.12%
Celestite	0.59	1.23%	37.25	98.78%
Chalcopyrite	-0.03	2.94%	42.34	-23.95%
Chlorite	1.03	2.67%	109.17	90.74%
Colemanite	-0.28	15.66%	126.92	99.40%
Cornadite	1.57	4.42%	241.04	71.86%
Cristobalite	-0.80	1.55%	0.00	30.96%
Cryolite	-0.22	0.91%	8.88	101.35%
Dolomite	0.70	1.20%	39.79	-17.45%
Dumortierite	0.49	1.82%	50.08	61.67%
Dunite	0.57	1.34%	39.85	99.38%

\* Returns = (final value portfolio - initial value portfolio)/initial value portfolio

\*\* Volume = initial value portfolio/(total value of all portfolios)\*100

\*\*\* Residual = final value portfolio - manager's fee

# Risky = (value of final holdings of risky assets)/(value of final portfolio)\*100, portfolio values at trading prices, not at return levels

## All funds traded actively in this round

Music Review

# Lady Sovereign Breaks into USA

BY: CINDY KO

*Lady Sovereign – Vertically Challenged (EP) and Public Enemy*

Imagine what Jay-Z would sound like if he were white—not only white, but British. Now, try a 20 year-old, 5'1" British woman. Now, add a sideways ponytail. (That doesn't change the sound, but it matters anyway.) Would he still sound like a rapper?

Most of us associate the rap genre with the stereotype of a large and deep-voiced African American male with gold chains around his neck and a metal grill on his teeth. Of course it is only a stereotype, but for the most part, few well-known rappers are otherwise, and they stand out because of that.

Eminem, and the Beastie Boys before that, are both examples of rappers that got a fair amount of attention by breaking the rap stereotype. Although it might be easier to get recognized as a white rapper, but it could be equally harder to gain credibility as such. (Ever remember a guy named Vanilla Ice?) To be strictly politically incorrect, audiences have a hard time believing that a "white" person would grow up in a ghetto and, furthermore, one bad enough

to rap about.

However, one can safely assume that the modern world is getting wider and more open-minded, and the rap world is probably no different. The newest member of the rap community is such a mold-breaker that she's caught the eye of other rappers, like Adrock of the aforementioned Beastie Boys, and the ever-immortal, Jay-Z.

At the age where most of her peers have barely started thinking about their professional careers, Louise Amanda Harman—better known by her stage name as Lady Sovereign—has made herself into a full fledged rap musician. The West Londoner has released only one full album to date, and already has the attention of the entire United Kingdom, making it as high as #6 on the Billboard UK's Top 100.

Lady Sovereign hasn't quite made the same impression on the US Billboard, yet, but just wait. Her album, *Public Warning*, just dropped this past Halloween, making it too early to say what kind of impact she will make on the US rap scene.

Sovereign has a distinct style: one part chubby British girl, one part street-hardened urchin, one part bonafide rapper. But instead of rapping about gangs, women,

and bling, she turns her attention to things that are close to her world: her hometown, her favorite food (sheppard's pie), and hooded sweatshirts.

Although her subject matter is arguably less than orthodox and she's a good deal smaller than her other rap counterparts, she retains the big rapper attitude and tone in her music. In her songs, Sovereign refers to herself as, "the biggest midget in the game." She recognizes her unique place in the rap genre, and although she cites Ms. Dynamite as an influence, she mostly gives herself credit for her invention (In the track, 'A Little Bit of Shhhh!': "Who taught me? Nobody. I did it all by myself, you can't stop me.")

As new as she is, Sovereign already has an iconic look to her image: baggy clothes, thick eyeliner, a roundish face with classic British traits like a bulldog lower lip and crooked teeth, and most distinct of all, a high sideways ponytail. Given her arguably unsexy looks, her reputation and music are being propelled by her pure talent and word of mouth. For a youngster like her, she's done remarkably well. I'd hate to hex her so early on, but I would be willing to bet that her career is about to take off. And for how far



CARCA.

Sideways ponytails are making a comeback.

she's gotten in such a short time, the sky is the limit.

*Public Enemy* is proof that promising talent starts off with a big bang. Just about every track is well mixed and very masterfully pieced together. Sovereign's rapping voice ranges from brisk and sing-songy to fast-forward fast, turning her British accent into what sounds like a foreign language.

It's mind-blowing to imagine that, not too long ago, this girl was once uploading videos of herself rapping onto YouTube between stints at a waitressing job. On *Vertically Challenged*, the EP that goes with *Public Enemy*, she does eight remixes with

well-known musicians from both sides of the pond. Of course, not every track is solid gold—there are a few tracks that border on the annoying/immature side (including one track stupidly and appropriately titled, "Blah Blah"). She also has an annoying habit of referring to herself repeatedly as a midget. But all things considered, I suppose that's admissible.

Overall, I am impressed with Lady Sovereign's debut album, and appraise her as one of rap's most up and coming. If this is her first attempt at music, she certainly has a wealth of natural talent to last her for a long career.

Long live Lady Sov!

Grade: A

## Iñárritu's *Babel* Overly Ambitious

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

is never enough meat on their bones. The situations are all very tragic, yet the acting feels forced. Brad Pitt is good like always, but Cate Blanchett hardly justifies her recent Oscar win. The Moroccan family story is interesting, yet it

takes an unfortunate backseat to the other, lesser stories. The tale of the Japanese girl is an odd fit for the film, and frankly it belongs in its own movie.

Iñárritu is improving as a technician—the movie looks wonderful and jumps seamlessly from

scene to scene—but something is missing. One of the film's pivotal scenes is ruined because Iñárritu was too cute with the lights in a Japanese rave scene.

Iñárritu made two tragic masterpieces, but to be honest, he has to lighten up a bit because if the audience wants to be sad, they

want to cry over a movie worthy of their tears. It's unfortunate because Iñárritu is a great young talent, but it just seems that he has already tapped the well of tragic, intersecting stories, and it's all out of gold.

Despite my comments, *Babel* is not the disaster I make it out to be. Iñárritu's third picture is not a bad film, but given the film's

extreme ambition, it is a major disappointment. Is it fair to give a lesser film that exceeded limited expectations a higher rating than an unsettling near-masterpiece like *Babel*? Maybe, maybe not. Nevertheless, like its biblical predecessor, *Babel* is an impressive production that unfortunately tumbled to the ground.

\*\*1/2 out of \*\*\*\*

## Todd's Paperside Chat

### Make Money at the Ath

BY: TODD GINGRICH

There's a great new way to get a little bit of free Athenaeum food and some money on the side. In the past Caltech students served as waiters at the Athenaeum during lunch, dinners, and banquets. This program faded recently, but the Athenaeum would love for us to revive it. Athenaeum members enjoy meeting Caltech students, and the waiters in the past really enjoyed their time spent in the Ath.

The main demand for student waiters is over the lunch hour. Student shifts will run from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM on Monday through

Friday. Pay rates will be pretty good and at the end of the shift student waiters will receive a free lunch. Obviously the scheduling of these shifts conflicts with some classes. However, student waiters could work as few as two shifts a week, so with a little planning it could fit into your schedule.

If you're interested in working, send me an email ([gingrich@caltech.edu](mailto:gingrich@caltech.edu)), and I can forward your name on to the Athenaeum personnel. Even if you can't start until 2nd term, please express your interest now so that we have an idea of whether or not there is sufficient student interest to revive the program.

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## Just one more level When Online Gaming and Gambling Become Problematic

Lee Coleman Ph.D.

Monday November 20th at noon  
Caltech Y Conference room

How can you tell when gaming or online gambling is causing problems for you or your friends? In this interactive workshop, Dr. Lee Coleman will discuss:

- Signs of problematic gaming and gambling
- What to do when concerned
- How to talk to a friend you are concerned about

STD corner

# Ways to Avoid HPV, An Incurable Disease

**BY: JANE CURTIS  
HEALTH EDUCATOR**

Human Papillomavirus, more commonly known as HPV, is a viral infection spread through skin to skin sexual contact. HPV is a group of over 100 different viruses, with at least 30 strains known to cause different types of cancer.

There is currently no cure. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease (STD) in the United States (CDC, 2006), and can affect both men and women. About 5 million cases are reported each year. HPV is the recognized major cause of cervical cancer in women and the second leading cause of cancer death among women worldwide.

In August, 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a vaccine that protects against four major types of HPV. To learn more about the vaccine, students can visit [www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/hpv.vaccine.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/hpv.vaccine.pdf).

Men can minimize their risk by becoming informed about

HPV; limit the number of sexual partners they have, always use a condom with each sex act, and encourage their girlfriends or friends to visit their health care provider on a regular basis to get a pap test.

At this time, the vaccine is not available at the Student Health Center. The health center staff is researching costs and availability and hopes to have information by the end of the term. However, the vaccine is currently available at The Healthy Travel Clinic, located at 1250 East Green Street (cross of Chester), Suite 100, (626-584-1200). If you are interested in receiving the vaccine, please call them to learn the cost of the vaccine (you'll need to get 3 shots over a 6-month period), schedule an appointment, and see if there are any specific instructions you'll need to follow prior to getting vaccinated.

Updates on the availability of the HPV vaccine by the Caltech Student Health Center will be posted at both the health center and health education websites.

## Analyzing the Election Results

**BY: EVANS BONEY**

*My name is Evans, and I'm a thinkaholic. I wake up in the morning and have a think. I'll binge think all day, and I can't get to sleep without having one last think. I was reading the California Tech yesterday, and realized it could be the perfect location for me to meet my classmates, coworkers, etc. and have a think with all of them. That said, let's begin my first think for The Tech.*

With the election season winding down, there's probably not much you haven't heard. First you heard people wax on and on about the importance of the war in Iraq. Then you heard predictions that the Democrats would take over the House, but not the Senate. Then the results came in. Then you heard about the recount procedure in Virginia. Then you heard...

There's one thing you probably haven't heard in the media, and that is that this election was a good thing for traditional republicans because it was good for traditional republican values. By traditional republican values, I mean Constitution toting, Isolationism, and Religion. I saw Senator

Santorum's kids crying last night, and I'm sure they'd ask me "How could this have possibly been a good thing?"

Glad they asked. First and foremost, while a lame duck president and a house majority of opposite parties don't tend to make for the most efficient democracy, they are effective at checking each other's power. You remember checks and balances? Major legal changes are decided by 9 people, none of whom were elected. Habeas Corpus has been obliterated by a rubber stamp. A democratic governed Congress is certainly not going to be the president's rubber stamp anymore, restoring one of the intended checks and balances, and protecting our Constitutional values.

Secondly, the democrats will be motivated to bring our men back to our side of the Atlantic quickly. This is because, if the situation in Iraq has not improved in the next 1.5 years, it will certainly be a campaign issue for the next election. Cries of "They had their chance!" will be heard from the southeast all the way to the Midwest, and we'll be ushering in Jeb as our new president. So if you want the US to be more isolationist ASAP, the democratic takeover is good for you.

## Calling on Undergrad Gladiators

**BY: TONY FALK**

Do you remember the days when our nation's finest athletes took the field to take on the common citizen in a glorious competition that often involved fighting with giant Q-tips and shooting a tennis ball cannon at people climbing a wall?

Well, this fun filled event has finally arrived at Caltech. Except that instead of fine athletes there are "members of the Caltech community" (read: nerds).

An event that is half Mudeo, half Ditch Day and half GSC sponsored insanity has always existed (since the beginning of time or at least since before this year) but is finally open to all members of Caltech, including our famously feisty undergrads.

I hereby call out all undergrads, from the most frightened frosh huddling in their room to the glorious senior standing astride the core requirements they have so recently defeated, to help all of undergrad kind defeat the grad students on their own turf.

*Announcement on Page 2*

## FEATURES

Career corner

# Advice for Internationals

**BY: JONIE WATANABE TSUJI  
CAREER COUNSELOR**

Job search often feels like a daunting task, but international students may feel at a disadvantage. In particular, there are visa issues, communication in a different language, as well as diverse cultural norms. However, the job search itself is pretty much the same.

So what is involved in a job search? The most important starting point of the job search is doing self-assessment. What are your values? What is important to you in a job? (Is it money? Prestige? Helping others?) What skills do you have? (Don't forget transferable skills such as budgeting, leadership, and organization.) In a sense, you are the "product." Just like a computer, you have features, strengths, special abilities – things that make you unique. A good sales person knows their product inside and out so they can be persuasive and answer detailed questions.

Once you have done your self-evaluation, you can begin to mar-

ket yourself. Everyone needs documentation. Translate your values and skills into a resume.

The resume is your sales brochure. It has to attract employers to explore you further. Come up with a 30-second personal advertisement that you can respond to a potential employer when they ask, "So, tell me about yourself." Participate in recruiting activities on campus (career fairs and on-campus recruiting). Do your homework on the companies you are targeting, get information, and do some research. Finally, make sure you have some form of support system – whether that is family, friends, or the friendly staff at the Career Development Center (CDC).

Year after year it is demonstrated that networking is the most effective tool for job search. For international students, that means talking to people...alumni, faculty, colleagues, organizational representatives, etc. Students who don't learn to network reduce their chances of securing a job by many factors. Students want to become a better networker can talk with the Career Development Center.

Finally, if you are concerned with visa issues while going through the job search, consider talking to the International Student Programs (for undergrads and grad students) or the International Scholars Services (for postdocs) Office on campus. They can help you answer questions you may have about immigration issues and lend some additional support.

The job search doesn't have to be scary. Just take it one step at a time. If you need help at any step of the way, come see us at the CDC. We can help you get from "How do I get a job?" to "You're hired, now let's talk salary!"

This is International Education Week 2006 – "Celebrating and Promoting International Education and Exchange, a joint initiative of the US Department of State and the US Department of Education to recognize the global exchange environment between the United States and other countries."

Caltech has a large population of international students and postdoctoral scholars. Thus, in the spirit of international educational exchange, we felt it might be helpful to talk a little about job search for the international student and postdoctoral scholar.

## Commentary

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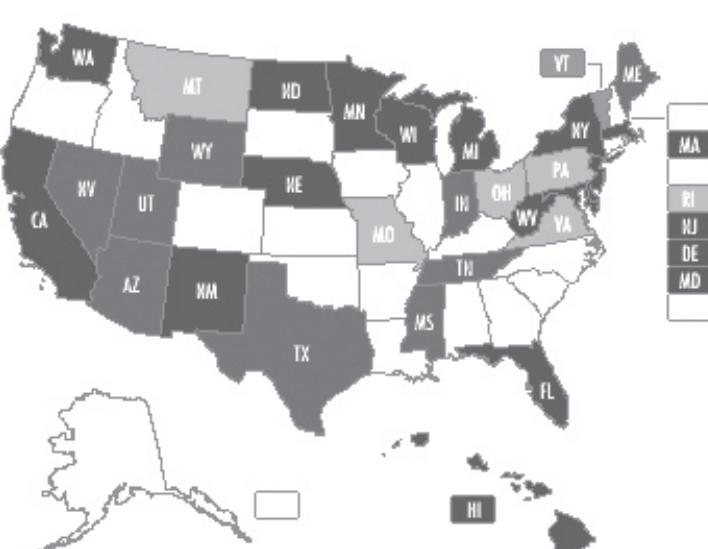
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**This map shows which party won the Senate elections held last Tuesday. The light-colored states indicate states that switched party control and the dark-colored ones are states that remained Democrat. States with a medium hue remained Republican. Democrats gained six seats in the Senate.**

Thirdly, religious issues have faded to the political backburner, as the country is united around finding a new solution to our problems in the Middle East. This is good for religious groups because, hopefully, individual leaders will have to answer tough, ethical questions up front. It will no longer be good enough for a political leader to go to church,

temple or mosque, he or she will have to actually love his or her neighbor as his or her self to the benefit of his or her nation.

So buck up little Santorum children, this election wasn't so bad after all. Sure, dad's got to find a new job, but at least you won't have to worry about getting drafted.

## Write for The Tech

If you are interested in working for *The Tech*, feel free to attend our weekly meetings on Mondays and Fridays from noon to 1PM at the Broad Cafe. Please note that there is no meeting on November 13th.

If we print your material, we will pay you up to the amounts listed below (at our discretion). Email submissions to [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu).

*The Tech* is published weekly except during vacation and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers.

Letters and submissions are welcome; e-mail submissions to [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu) as plain-text attachments, including the author's name, by Friday of the week before publication. *The Tech* does accept anonymous contributions. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for any reason. All written work remains property of its author. The advertising deadline is five p.m. Friday; all advertising should be submitted electronically or as camera-ready art, but *The Tech* can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising inquiries should be directed to the business manager at [business@caltech.edu](mailto:business@caltech.edu). For subscription information, please send mail to "Subscriptions."

# Caltech Winter Sports Begin in Ernest



photo by Jonathan Tsai



photo by Mandy Gamble

Sophomore guard Matt Dellatorre keeps a tight watch over Jordan Carlson '06, in the men's Alumni basketball game on November 4. The Beavers avenged their loss last year to the alumni, lead by sophomore forward Travis Haussler with 20 points.

## Upcoming Athletic Events

### Friday, November 17th

4:30PM - Men's Basketball vs. U of Dubuque (IA)

6:30PM - Women's Basketball vs. CSU East Bay

### Saturday, November 18th

All-Day - M/W Fencing @ UC San Diego

3:00PM - Women's Basketball vs. College of St. Catherine (MN)

7:30PM - Men's Basketball vs. West Coast Baptist College

Senior Katherine Harvard goes for a point with her epee while avoiding her opponent's blade.

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Puzzle #5967 from [sudoku-puzzles.net](http://sudoku-puzzles.net)

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Country Review

# Canada Provides More Than Just Maple Syrup

**BY: HAMILTON FALK**

When I first realized I was going to write a review of the great nation of Canada, some people suggested that I wasn't the most qualified author because I hadn't been to Canada in more than 6 years. To anyone else who has this objection, I'd like to point out that I've spent time almost every year of my life, including this last summer, in New Hampshire<sup>1</sup> and Maine, which are practically Canada, and are right next to such well known Canadian states as Quebec, Vermont, New Brunswick and Minnesota. I also like several Canadian bands, have friends who have threatened to move to Canada if Republican's win another election and my current girlfriend is half Canadian. Now that you understand how qualified I am (which is pretty darn qualified) I hope you'll believe me when I say that Canada is the second largest nation on earth.

To me it is obvious that an important part of a country is physical, because without that portion everyone would be floating around on the ocean in giant boats. Canada boasts that it is the second largest nation on earth in both surface area and volume<sup>2</sup> and that it has multiple climates ranging from the icy frozen tundra of the far north to the brisk and chilly grasslands of the west and even encompassing the steamy tropical jungles of the inside of an apartment building in Toronto. With all this size and diversity, thousands of tourists become lost each year, never to be seen again, and millions of tourists enjoy visiting either Canada or some other location in complete safety. While Canada admittedly doesn't have any environmental features that can't be found in the United States, it does have more lakes than anywhere else in the world, vast expanses of carnivorous forests, the world's largest estuary, and a large amount of the world's fresh water (and has one of the most hydrated populations of any nation). Overall, I would rate Canada's natural beauty and bigness an A, or 'eh' as it is spelled in Canadian.

Another important feature that any traveler is likely to feign interest in during a visit to a country is the history, government and economy of a country. Unfortunately for Canada there has been little time to create a history of its own, since it was a colony of England until 1982 when it shook off imperial rule by asking politely. Its government, like that of the United Kingdom and Australia, is amusing but well behind more advanced nations (the United States) in key areas such as wasting money and self-importance. The economy of Canada was a mercantilist system until 1982<sup>3</sup> and has now converted to a vaguely-socialist but making-a-lot-of-money-so-we-call-it-capitalist economic system. One major strike against Canada is their annoying coins get mixed up for real American money when you're trying to buy a soda, but this is largely

countered by the fact that Canadian money is brightly colored and you can buy a bunch of Canadian money pretty cheap. For these features Canada gets a C+.

Now we will consider the vibrant culture of Canada. Ca-

**Grade:  
Eh-**

suggests you didn't expect to see Canada there. Canada maintains the most northerly permanently settled location on earth (The Canadian Forces Station Alert, or Ontario for short) and is just chock full of Mounties. Canada gets

about Canada or "the Great White North"<sup>4</sup> in just a few paragraphs. Remember, next time you want to be cold, or make fun of a NAFTA nation that isn't Mexico, Canadians would appreciate it if you would consider their country.



photo courtesy of www.daveby.com/

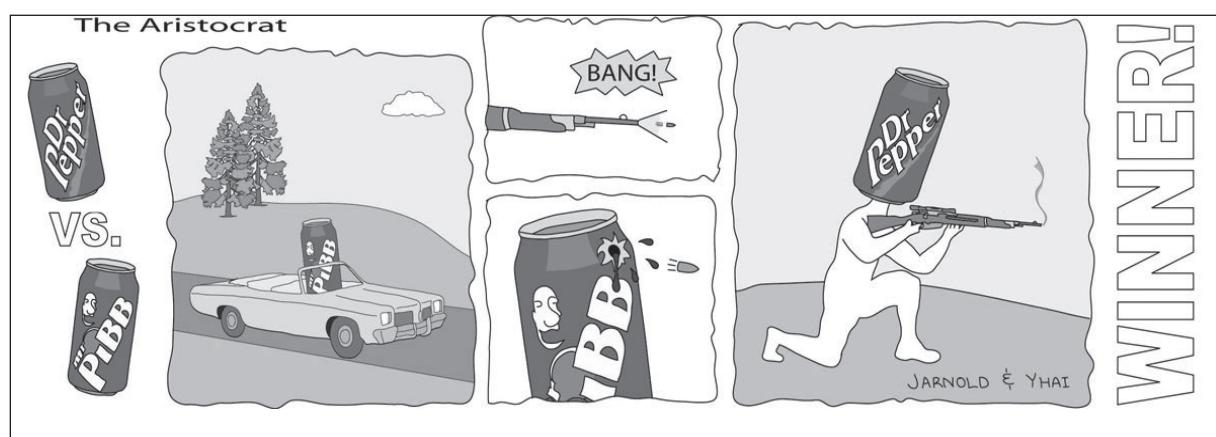
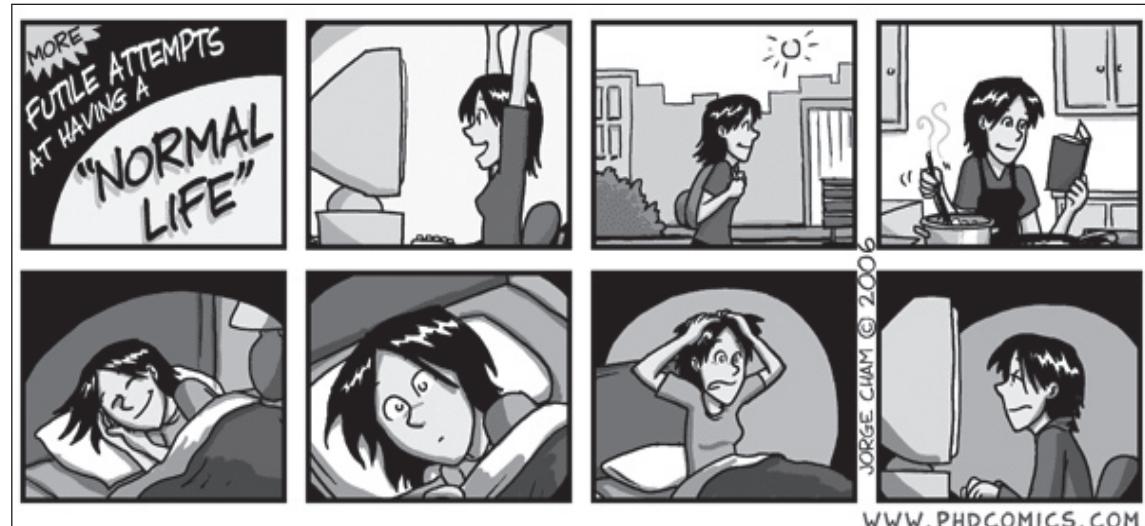
Pamela Anderson seeks protection in the form of these men in red, you should too. Another reason why Canada is awesome.

nadians love hockey, ice fishing and being polite, but that doesn't stop them from being very multi-ethnic and sometimes speaking French. Canada's chief cultural achievement is the production of celebrities, most of which it exports to the south. I'll bet you didn't know how many Canadian celebrities there are (473). In fact, Canadians now live among us! You yourself might even be Canadian and not even realize it!<sup>4</sup> Of course, everyone knows some famous Canadians, like Scott Abbott, the co-inventor of Trivial Pursuit and Pierre Gaultier de Varennes et de la Vérendrye, who explored Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg. And who could forget Edgar Randolph Parker, usually known as "Painless" Parker, the flamboyant dentist. However, you might not have known that Gordon Lightfoot (the singer/songwriter), Mike Vanderjagt (the idiot kicker) and Alex Trebeck (game show host and international super-spy) are all Canadians, as are comedians Carrot Top, Jim Carry and Céline Dion. I won't go into the long list of Canadian bands and former-bay watch actresses/sex symbols, but needless to say, without Canadians there would be slightly fewer celebrities. In my book, that means Canadian culture gets an A++ (they'd have gotten four plusses, but it turns out that Carrot Top isn't really Canadian, he just plays one on TV.)

make them seem 'multi-national' and a convenient place for draft-dodgers to hang out. Canada recently changed the tune of its national anthem, "Oh Canada"<sup>5</sup> so it is now sung "Oh! Canada!" in a voice that

a B+ for its intangibles, and it would be higher if a moose hadn't tried to kill me when I was canoeing there.

There you have it, everything you need to know



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A final category in which every country should be rated in is the intangibles it possesses. This might be something like having toilets that flush backwards, most of the world's poisonous snakes or even pretending not to have oppressed its native people (because it was doing it for their own good). Canada provides such useful services as universal healthcare for its citizens, a small number of soldiers for U.N. peace keeping forces to

1 Live Free or Die  
2 Russia has more surface area and the subterranean kingdom of the Mole People has 37% more volume.

3 Mercantilism is a system used by many imperial nations that involves a colony sending raw goods back to the Imperial centre in exchange for Mercantiles, a type of ceramic plate used for flooring.

4 Canadian test: If you read this and thought "gee this guy is an idiot" you're not Canadian. If you thought "gee, this guy sure is a hose-head, eh? Let's go get some moose-burgers and wear tuque" you're probably Canadian. On the other hand, maybe you just have a learning disability.

5 Previously the tune of Oh Canada was the same as the popular German Christmas song Oh Tannenbaum (known as Oh Christmas Tree as well).

6 Canada is known as the "great white" north because it is nature's finest killing machine, as demonstrated by the fact that it has been swimming the seas for millions of years virtually unchanged.