

# THE CALIFORNIA TECH



VOLUME CXI, NUMBER 3

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 19, 2009

## Alcohol Returns to Page *Members of Page "Thrilled" by End of Ban*

By Rick Paul

STAFF WRITER

Beer once again flows freely in Page House.

After six months as a designated dry zone, the administration finally lifted the alcohol ban a couple weeks before the beginning of first term. Although the former "beer room" is no more, "Everyone was thrilled that they could actually have fun again and act like college kids," said a junior in Page House who preferred to remain anonymous. "I personally think the ban was

ridiculous. This is college. People drink in college."

This latest ban was the result of a string of alcohol policy violations that including underage drinking at a champagne party and underage participation in a drinking game called Shelf Races, in which students attempted to consume 1800 bottles of beer within a single week.

The ban was officially instated as a last resort taken by the Deans because a variety of earlier crackdowns had already proven ineffective in curbing the irresponsible behavior of a few inebriated Pageboys.

The ban did not come unwarned nor was it the first ban to be placed on the house. Prior to the ban, the beer room was shuttered and remodeled as a non-alcoholic lounge. As reported in the September 22, 2006 issue of *The Tech*, alcohol was banned from Page House and its off-campus associated house, The Holly, from early July to mid-September in response to property damage and unregistered events.

Emotions, nevertheless, still run high about the alcohol ban. James Wu, a junior in Page House, called the ban "ineffective and contrary to the stated purposes of the administration, which is to ensure the safety of students first."

"The alcohol ban just forced

us to drink in other houses and caused people to drink in non-social situations, creating a new, dangerous variety of safety concerns," he said.

Many others felt the same way, voicing their frustration with the administration's harsh stance towards drinking in the undergraduate houses and especially its singling out of Page House. During the ban, Dean Hall decreed that no student or visitor, even those over 21, were allowed to possess alcohol on Page House grounds in an e-mail sent to Page members in early

April. Students said that there were several instances in which security guards singled out Pageboys after they had been drinking on weekends.

Students are not just concerned about safety issues. Another junior Pageboy said "It's not like there is tons of social stuff going on at Caltech all the time, and it's nice to be able to kick back every now and then and have a few drinks. There is no shame in that, especially at Caltech where the students work so hard and could use a break every now and then. The Deans essentially took away that very necessary break."

"There are much bigger issues on campus than a handful of undergrads...at the end of the week after completing five-plus homework sets [having] a few drinks."

Since its inception, Page's motto has been 'spe labor levis', a Latin idiom meaning "May the work be light." The official motto is often followed by "And the drinks be heavy." The alcohol may be back, but with tighter restrictions on drinking and a "beer room" now remodeled as a multipurpose entertainment room some students believed that the ban has destroyed an essential component of the "work hard, play hard" culture Page House has long been known for.

Cafe 140 South Review

page 5



Where Have Cutbacks Happened?  
Dumpling Party Photos  
Sports  
Comics

## In This Issue

page 2  
pages 3-4  
page 7  
page 8

Zombieland  
Review  
page 6



PHOTO BY SILAS BENNETT

A bouncy castle appeared on the Athenaeum lawn during this weekend's wedding.

## Rick Bischoff Steps Down

### *Leaves for Case Western at End of October*

By Monorina Mukhopadhyia

STAFF WRITER

No document is as precious to most entering undergraduates as the letter that reads "It is an honor ..." All of today's undergraduates have received one of those long awaited pieces of processed cellulose fibers signed by Rick

Bischoff.

Richard W. Bischoff, the director of undergraduate admissions at the California Institute of Technology, who has "had a hand" in the admission of all of the current undergraduates at

Tech--will be leaving the position at the end of the month after five years in Southern California, to head back into the heart of the country, where he will be joining Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio as Vice President for Enrollment Management from the 1st of November.

"It's been an absolute blast. It's been amazing." Mr. Bischoff

says empathically, speaking of Tech and So Cal with evident affection, talking of the joy of being able to look into the lives and minds of some of the best high school seniors across the country and the world. It is clearly a job he has enjoyed doing, and, if his colleagues' words are any indication, a job he has done

"I've always been very optimistic about change, and been an adventurer. [My new job is] going to present me with a whole new set of challenges. And obviously, problems along with it. That's part of the reason I wanted this. It's always so much more fun."

extremely well. "He bought us out of the stone age", says Tiffanie Love, referring to the many changes Mr. Bischoff that wrought in Caltech Admissions. Cameron Pinckney attests, "He's taken us in a whole new direction. You can't say better than that."

This move to Ohio will be a return to his roots for Mr. Bischoff who came to California from Chicago in June 2001. And, just

like every other major change, it causes a "mixed bag" of trepidation and excitement. "I've always been very optimistic about change, and been an adventurer," he says. "Obviously, it would have been safer to stay here. Talking of his new job, "It's going to present me with a whole new set of challenges. And obviously, problems along with it. That's part of the reason I wanted this. It's always so much more fun." He speaks of his expectations, and about

the friends he will be leaving behind in Pasadena and Los Angeles, as he looks forward to another new start in his life. No stranger to changes and shifts, he adds, "This is the way I've always approached work. You're looking forward all the time." He rounds off with "Life's a whole lot more fun this way." Touché.

# OPINION

2 OCTOBER 19, 2009

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

## Death by a Thousand Papercuts?

By Chris Kennelly

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Budget cuts have affected vast swaths of the campus but consider for a moment which have been well-publicized.

Last year, *The Tech* featured extensive coverage surrounding official announcements about forthcoming budget cuts. In our January 20, 2009 issue, we reported on President Chameau's statement that the institute would be forced to cut \$25 million its budget. Scores of layoffs have been announced. The bookstore has stopped selling books.

Nevertheless, our knowledge of

the situation is limited. After the official announcements ceased, belt tightening continued on. The \$25 million figure came not with a breakdown of components but with promises that undergraduate education would not be harmed. On March 9, 2009, we announced cuts of up to 30% for academic budgets. So much for education being unscathed?

Despite our small size, the budget itself remains opaque. Knowing where to look is half the battle. Cuts to club funding, student programs, or staffs are not always readily apparent from the Ivory Tower of editorship.

Most of the changes carried little information about their actual budget impact. Alternatively, if a budget-relevant statistic was presented, relative comparison were useful in disuading anyone from doing any budget crunching at home. What use is a "30%" figure if no one outside of the administration currently knows what academics currently cost or if it is merely a loose upperbound on the savings.

Detailing budget cuts does not take a position in the debate over what should be cut and what should not. Instead, it merely frames such a debate *should it*

*happen*. Without an informed student body, that debate probably won't happen.

Worse, programs, once cut, won't grow back. A weak institutional memory amongst undergraduates allows changes to persist and another populace to sweep in to replace them, unaware of how things once were. Even with recent market rallies possibly bolstering our endowment, it is far easier to leave dead programs as they are rather than revive them.

We are open to story tips from all members of the Caltech community. Our coverage of last year's budget cuts was only

possible due to the helpfulness of undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members at pointing out to us the changes in their neighborhood.

Even members of the administration can help by being upfront about the state of the institute. The \$25 million dollar figure tossed around last year is a hole wide enough to drive dramatic, sweeping changes through.

If you're aware of actual cuts or just quiet belt tightening, let us know. Email us at [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu) or come to one of our meetings.

## The California Tech

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125  
advertising e-mail: [business@caltech.edu](mailto:business@caltech.edu)  
editorial e-mail: [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu)

*Editor-in-Chief*  
Chris Kennelly

*Layout Editor*  
Hanna Liu

*Staff*  
Dannah Almasco  
ZeNan Chang  
Tina Ding  
Andrew Freddo  
Michelle Jiang  
Casey Jao  
Natalya Kostandova  
Brian Merlob  
Monorina Mukhopadhyay  
Joel Nikolaus  
Rick Paul  
Alex Roper  
Gloria Tran  
Wesley Yu

*Business Managers*  
Gabriel Mendoza  
Chris Kennelly

*Circulation*  
Aryan Safaei

*Adviser*  
Tom Mannion

*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 5 PM 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."



**Write or take pictures  
when you can. We pay  
up to \$30 for news  
articles.**

**We're flexible.**

**Join us Monday or Friday at  
noon for free pizza at Broad  
Cafe, or send [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu)  
an email if you're interested in  
being a part of the Tech.**

## Intellectual Creativity... Continued

By Brian Merlob

UNDERGRADUATE

I love to teach, but this was not always the case. When I was younger, I disliked tutoring and lecturing because no matter how prepared I was or how much motivation (M&Ms, Cookies) I brought to the table, I had difficulty transferring my knowledge. And now I know why. People learn by connecting new information with preexisting knowledge. Especially in science, students need to develop models, work out simple examples, see demonstrations and relate what they're learning to what they've learnt. My problem was that I already knew what I was going to say (to the point of memorization), but was unable to anticipate their questions or decipher their background in the area. Now, at least at Caltech, I can easily empathize with the difficulty students have understanding the material and can identify the steps it will take to help them understand. And this brings me to the question of effective teaching.

What constitutes effective teaching?

Effective teaching is an art, and in my research (and my classes) I've noticed some common characteristics of effective teaching. First is the teacher's ability to survey the class, to see how many students are present, awake, paying attention, and understanding the material. Teachers with this ability generally promote an interactive atmosphere, where everyone is required to be thinking about the question at hand and anyone could be called on to answer. A draconian teacher is one that consistently calls on the students not paying attention; an awesome teacher is one that walks around the room, sits next to inattentive students and wags his eyebrows suggestively towards the question on the board. Very few of these teachers spend more than 90% of the class lecturing and the best spend less than 20% of the time lecturing. In general, lecturing is an outmoded form of education, best explained as a process whereby the lecture notes of the professor gets transferred to the notebooks of the students without passing through the brains of either. In its place are discussions, led by the teacher, sustained by

very well.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, is the teacher's ability to keep students attending class, awake, paying attention, and understanding the material. Teachers with this ability generally promote an interactive atmosphere, where everyone is required to be thinking about the question at hand and anyone could be called on to answer. A draconian teacher is one that consistently calls on the students not paying attention; an awesome teacher is one that walks around the room, sits next to inattentive students and wags his eyebrows suggestively towards the question on the board. Very few of these teachers spend more than 90% of the class lecturing and the best spend less than 20% of the time lecturing. In general, lecturing is an outmoded form of education, best explained as a process whereby the lecture notes of the professor gets transferred to the notebooks of the students without passing through the brains of either. In its place are discussions, led by the teacher, sustained by

the students.

Teachers eventually learn the first ability and can be taught the second ability, but professors don't always have the third necessary element for being an effective teacher: time to prepare. The best teachers at Caltech are the professors and TAs who end up rereading the freshman textbook every year, who update their notes as to what students understood and didn't understand in anticipation for the next year, who then look at their notes from previous years and prepare for those questions, who look for interesting and relevant examples to present, who stay after class, extend their Office Hours, and answer emails – who convey that they care. Unfortunately, the best researchers are not the ones that spend oodles of time preparing for class, and Caltech is known for its amazing research.

My ideas are far from perfect, but I've thought about them for a long time, so I'd love any commentary you'd be willing to give - email me anytime! ([Merlob@caltech.edu](mailto:Merlob@caltech.edu))

## Avery Holds Dumpling Party

Avery frosh enjoy one of Avery's Initiation activities, a dumpling making party.

PHOTOS BY SAMUEL YANG



There was no ASCIT BoD meeting this past week. Meetings have been rescheduled for Monday.

The *California Tech* is obligated, under the ASCIT Bylaws, to publish the minutes of the Board of Directors. The BoD minutes are published as-received and without further abridgment. For unabridged versions of the minutes, consult Laura Conwill, ASCIT Secretary.

The Editors include minutes from IHC meetings, excerpts from the ARC's meetings, and other announcements voluntarily as a service to the community.



PHOTO BY SAMUEL YANG



## Newton lost a ton of money in the market. *Think you can do better?*

Today's financial markets are exquisitely complex systems populated by highly competitive players, where both the environment and the participants co-evolve on short time scales. Understanding and predicting market dynamics is a challenging and rewarding endeavor. If joining the exploration at a firm with an exceptional team of people and state-of-the-art technology sounds exciting, please attend our Information Session on Thursday, October 22.

Additionally, Caltech alumni, John Naud ('96) and John Niccolai ('99), are offering students a challenge. A five-question problem set is now available, with solutions due at the Citadel Information Session. The person who turns in the best solution will receive a \$1,000 Amazon gift card. This is a "closed everything" Problem Set, and you must work independently. The Honor Code applies.

**Citadel Information Session**  
Thursday, October 22  
Brennen Conference Room  
4:00 PM

Please contact Kate Nurczynski ([kate.nurczynski@citadelgroup.com](mailto:kate.nurczynski@citadelgroup.com)) to obtain a copy of the Problem Set.

 CITADEL

Since its founding in 1990, Citadel has emerged as one of the world's most sophisticated alternative investment institutions. Our team currently consists of over 1,300 professionals working in Chicago, London, New York, Hong Kong and San Francisco. Our team members exhibit a tremendous amount of intellectual curiosity, a passion for innovative ideas, and our relentless commitment to execution.

[citadelgroup.com](http://citadelgroup.com)

# Cafe 140 South

by Dannah Almasco and Andrew Freddo



between Cordova and Green. Its outdoor patio is a great place to people-watch on a sunny. Overall, the menu has a lot of variety, with something for every craving: salads, pastas, pizzas, sandwiches, and burgers! To start, we had the Pot Stickers (\$9.75), and for our entrées we had the Prosciutto di Parma Pizza (\$13.95) and the California Cheeseburger (\$11.50).



a sit-down meal for only a couple more dollars than other Lake Avenue fare. Café 140 South, with its varied American cuisine menu, would serve as a good alternative to Green Street Restaurant.

Formerly known as the Crocodile Café, Café 140 South is located on Lake Avenue

For an appetizer meant to share, coming out with 5 pot stickers is a bit strange! They were filled with shrimp and were served with a ginger soy dipping sauce. The sauce was delicious and sweet, and we couldn't stop dipping! There could have been a bit more shrimp, because it seemed like the pot stickers had a bit too much filler. Also, they tasted a bit too oily.

The strangest thing about the pizza was that there were sweet peppers on top! It must have been to take a bit of the edge off the salty prosciutto, but ended up making the bottom of the pizza a bit watery. The pizza itself was bigger than those from Chandler, but was less crispy. Still, it was an enjoyable entrée.

Overall, the California Cheeseburger was good, but it wasn't too hot. It was served with curly fries on the side, which was a nice touch. The burger itself was a good portion, but there was too much mustard, which detracted from the flavor. On the plus side, the avocado on top was delicious and there was more than enough!

Head to Café 140 South to switch up your weekend routine! Especially at lunchtime, when prices are cheaper, you can enjoy



## Zombieland: It's a Comedy, without the Stupid Parts in It

**By Perrin Considine**

UNDERGRADUATE

**Quick:** A-. Zombieland was a comedy that didn't take shortcuts, but had a realness to it that dealt with the practicality of living in "Zombieland." The main characters in it knew not to walk into dark rooms alone, and there was an overall enduring humor and humanity to the movie which was nice compared to the usual zombie trope of stripping away humanity with fear and violence. There were also some real cute moments. Must be able to sit through gore. And running zombies.

**Long:** Zombieland was incredibly gory for the first ten minutes, the kind where a zombie bites someone and there's hamstrings and such getting ripped out of someone's flesh. I was terrified that I would hate the rest of the movie because of this, but I didn't. It got less gory and more funny (hehe, I know: improper grammar), and I left the theater in high spirits.

I won't actually describe the plot here, because that would be needlessly spoiling. The most I can say is college-age survivor+tough guy+love interest+sister find ways to cope and survive in post-Zombie apocalypse U.S.A.. I think the movie is much better than the trailers would let us believe. I was sure that the gun-slinging tough guy would be the most annoying part of the experience, but he is actually a good character-- he is dimensional and true; the writers took no shortcuts or formulas in developing him.

He's no Joker, but if you go see Zombieland (heartily recommended) you will be spared the usual B-movie experience of "typical" characters whose

only claim to dimensionality or motive is through sudden sappy emotional moments or random revelations. I really appreciated this. Also,

when characters did stupid shit, it wasn't because they had this insane gravitational toward death-causing stupidity.

For example, you would not see someone walk into a dark room alone with no weapon without checking for zombies in it before handcuffing theirself to a bed, and-- you get the point. Stupidity was also not for facilitating the plot. Stupidity happened in this movie but because the characters were stupid in ways true to themselves and their motivations. Ok. Awesome. I'm liking this movie already.

I love zombie movies, but my problems with them are usually:

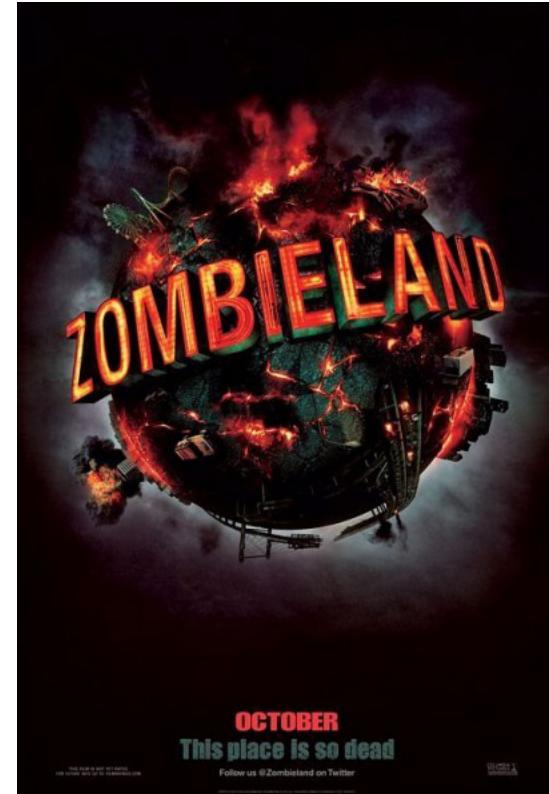
1. Gore
2. Plots driven by people being unreasonably stupid
3. Taking the zombie tropes way to seriously
4. Running zombies are really scary.

Solutions:

1. Gore is effectively over if you can get yourself past the scary first 10 minutes, which actually successfully establish tone and humor

2. Already discussed.
3. This is the movie I am kicking myself in the neck for not writing myself. It is so brilliant and funny and yet practical. Humor is a little reminiscent of Malcolm Reynolds from Firefly: Practicality is essential. The protagonist, a former college student, has over 30 rules for surviving "Zombieland," and the audience becomes quite amusingly familiar with these over the course of the movie.

In summary, it is worth seeing, unless one hates gore, zombies, or comedies. Not that I'm judging; I just liked this movie a lot-- perhaps too much too accurately inform you on it.



## New York, I Love You

**By Julianne Gould**

UNDERGRADUATE

A young composer befriends a woman he's only ever talked to on the phone. A high school senior finds an unexpected prom date. A bickering elderly couple takes a trip to celebrate their 63rd anniversary. Through a flurry of snapshots like these, the unconventional romance movie New York, I Love You celebrates finding love in all forms. The film is an anthology of 11 diverse, unconnected stories set against a big city backdrop. Each vignette runs under 8 minutes and was produced by different directors, each of whom was given only two days to film and one week to edit his or her contribution. By the producers of Paris, je t'aime, which works off a similar concept, New York, I Love You also features a star-studded cast that includes Shia LaBeouf, Orlando Bloom, Hayden Christensen, Christina Ricci, and Blake Lively. At first glance, the movie's hodgepodge style seems like an interesting premise, though the results were a bit of a mixed bag. Although vignettes had very different content matter and

styles, the film made only half-hearted attempts at providing any cohesion between them. The brief reappearances of old characters in other storylines were not particularly well thought-out and often became more confusing than anything else. Additionally, due to the brevity of the clips, many characters did not amount to much more than cookie-cutter stereotypes and cardboard cutouts. However, the sheer variety in characters and subject matter does mean that everyone can find something that appeals to them, even if some stories aren't to their tastes. What New York, I Love You does not provide, however, is much in the way of your stereotypical Hollywood romance. Although all of its vignettes are admittedly about love, most do not center on the young lovey-dovey couples that we (at least) had originally expected. Some stories explore largely non-romantic forms of love, such as the relationship between a parent and child, or the friendship between a retired singer and her fan. Others focus on divorcees, adulterers, and stalkers, giving the overall

film a darker edge. Having come into New York, I Love You expecting a light-hearted, feel-good romance, we were surprised to find the movie to be much more cynical and, at times, even thought-provoking. (In fact, once we got back from the movie, we actually headed for Wikipedia to figure out exactly what was going on in several segments...though, unfortunately for us, it turned out there was no plot synopsis). Some stories still had pretty cute moments (Joules even ended up crying during one, though we won't spoil the details), but, in general, the film presented a darker, more thoughtful take on love than your typical chick-flick. Some other miscellaneous thoughts that crossed our minds during the movie: Love leads to stalkerish tendencies, people can be freakishly bold, and we're pretty sure people in New York don't smoke cigarettes that much. Overall, if you are looking for an over-the-top romance film, this is probably not the movie for you. However, it can be a movie worth seeing if you want a more thought-provoking experience and don't mind the R-rated material.

## Upcoming Events:

Monday, October 19th

- **Filming for Greek** Campus-wide from 5:30AM to 11PM
- **Lunchtime Meeting for The California Tech** at Broad Cafe from Noon to 1PM.

Tuesday, October 20th

- **Seasonal Flu Shots** Dabney Lounge from 9AM-3:30PM

Friday, October 23rd

- **Lunchtime Meeting for The California Tech** - At Broad Cafe from Noon to 1PM
- **Performing Arts Series: Barynya** - Beckman Auditorium 8-10PM.

Saturday, October 24th

- **Film Screening: Hubble's Canvas** - Beckman Auditorium 2-3:30PM
- **The Caltech Comedy Club Presents LA's Best Comics** - Winnett Lounge 7-9PM

Organizations wishing to publicize events in the upcoming events list should email the editors ([tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu)) by the Friday evening prior to publication. Inclusion is subject to space constraints and editorial discretion.

## Movies:

Open this week:

- **The Stepfather**
- **Where the Wild Things Are**
- **Law Abiding Citizen**



Earn your degree in education in 12–18 months.

With more than 36 credential and master's degree opportunities, we're confident we have a program for you.

APU offers:

- Convenient classes at 8 Southern California locations and online.
- NCATE-accredited programs recognized by all 50 states and internationally.
- A degree-completion program in human development (HDEV) designed for future teachers.

Classes start year-round.  
Contact us today!

Call (800) 825-5278

Click [www.apu.edu/explore/education](http://www.apu.edu/explore/education)

Email [graduatecenter@apu.edu](mailto:graduatecenter@apu.edu)



AZUSA | HIGH DESERT | INLAND EMPIRE | LOS ANGELES | MURRIETA  
ORANGE COUNTY | SAN DIEGO | VENTURA | ONLINE



Caltech runners race this last weekend.

## Upcoming Games

**October 20, 2009**  
**Women's Volleyball**  
**vs. La Verne**  
**7:30 PM**

**October 21, 2009**  
**Men's Soccer**  
**at La Verne**  
**4:00 PM**

**October 21, 2009**  
**Men's Water Polo**  
**vs. Occidental**  
**5:00 PM**

**October 23, 2009**  
**Women's Volleyball**  
**vs. Occidental**  
**7:30 PM**

**October 24, 2009**  
**Men's Soccer**  
**vs. Occidental**  
**11:00 AM**

**October 24, 2009**  
**Men's Water Polo**  
**at Claremont-M-S**  
**11:00 AM**

**October 24, 2009**  
**Women's Volleyball**  
**at Claremont-M-S**  
**6:00 PM**

# Women's Volleyball Wins Not Once, But Twice

Both wins  
out of  
conferences,  
but team  
back to  
SCIAC this  
week



Lisa Yee sets the ball for her teammates.



Caltech student faces off at recent fencing match.



## The Weekly Scoreboard

**October 15**

**Men's Soccer vs. Cal-Lutheran L (3-1)**

**October 16**

**Women's Volleyball vs. West Coast Baptist L (3-0)**

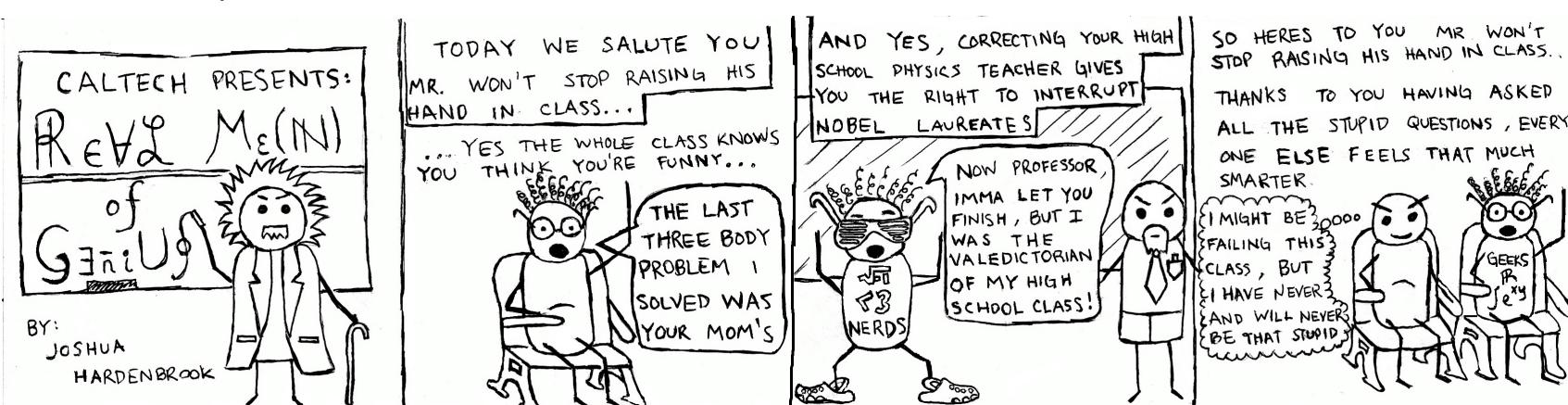
**October 17**

**Men's Soccer vs Redlands L (9-0)**  
**Men's Water Polo vs. Pomona-Pitzer L (19-8)**  
**Women's Volleyball vs. Multnomah Bible W(3-0)**

## APPLES AND ORANGES



Real Men of Genius by Joshua Hardenbrook



SMBC Comics by Zack Weiner



Professor Beiser gave a brief Q&A as to his experiments on bears flying jetpacks.

The California Tech  
Caltech 40-58  
Pasadena, CA 91125