

Grade Inflation Rampant Newly Appointed Todd Vows to Crack Down

Reprinted with Permission from *The Great Works of Todd Gingrich Vol. I, 2006*.

"Too many 'A's, people. Where do you think you are—Harvard?" asked Todd Gingrich in his inaugural speech as Institute President (see page 2).

Todd announced that he plans to begin to crack down on the school's rampant grade inflation. He is concerned about the excessive showering of Caltech students with outlandishly high marks. Students can now look forward to receiving the letter grade that they deserve, and

not the hopelessly inflated grades they were getting before.

Todd states, "We can't have Caltech turning into a clown college. Although, if Caltech were a clown college, I think it should be called, 'Clowntech.'" He then followed with, "The students at Caltech could learn a thing or two about hard work. When I walk around on campus, I see slack-jawed cavepeople everywhere I turn. It disgusts me." When Todd

was asked "Couldn't they just be slack-jawed and bent over from lack of sleep?" he replied "If you don't get enough sleep while you're at this school, then you must be pretty stupid."

Thanks to Todd and other administrators, course averages are now being curved to the 'D' range. For those students already on the low end of the GPA scale, Todd hopes the fear of flaming out may be a good motivator to, "quit screwing around."

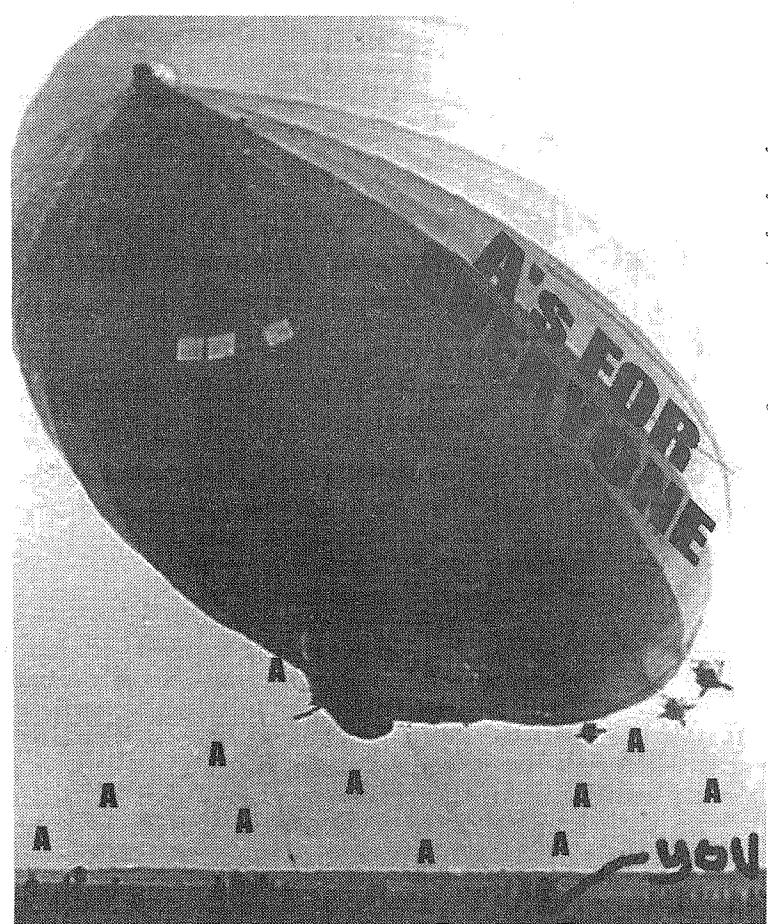


Photo courtesy of Life Before Todd: The Dark Ages

Beavers Defeat UF in Final Four Match

Caltech Continues Magical Run and Stuns Florida in Final Four

Indianapolis (AP)

Midnight struck Saturday night, but Cinderella's carriage remained in tact. The little basketball team that could, Caltech, came back from a seemingly insurmountable deficit to defeat the heavily favored Florida Gators at the Final Four. With the 85-84 victory, Caltech advances to Monday night's national championship game against mighty UCLA.

"Nobody expected us to be here," said exultant coach Roy Dow, "but I think we've inspired the entire country. Florida might have had a slight edge in athletic ability, but we showed more heart and used our minds more than any other team in the country. Even when we fell behind 23-0, we never stopped scheming. We never stopped believing."

Florida towered over Caltech's helpless front-court, but it was the brilliant

boys who got the last laugh. After clawing back from that early deficit, Caltech took a one point lead on a bank shot by senior starter Jordan Carlson, a potential first round NBA draft pick affectionately known as Heir Jordan. With 5 seconds left, Florida had one last chance, but 6-0 Caltech junior Christopher Yu swatted away a last second dunk by 6-11 Joakim Noah to preserve the unbelievable upset.

"The fact of the matter is, they outplayed us," Florida coach Billy Donovan said in his post game conference. "This is the NCAA Tournament and you can't take anyone lightly, even if they have no centers. Today we put our hands in the flame, and by golly, we got burned."

Caltech's presence in the Final Four was just as unlikely as their victory. Receiving an automatic bid by virtue of competing in the

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Don't Panic!

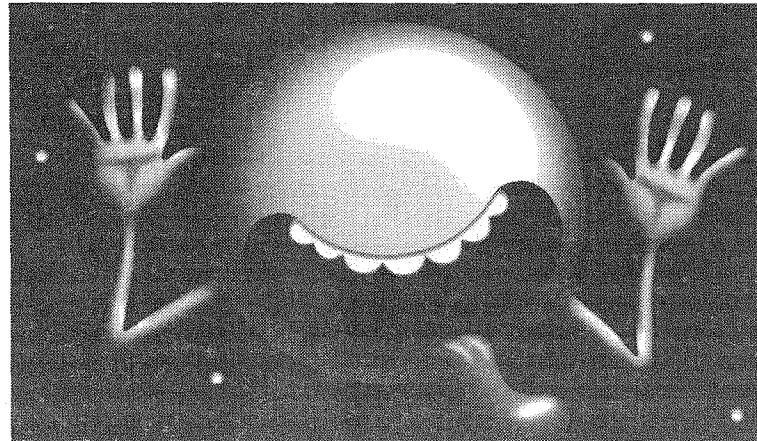


Illustration by The Prophet Douglas Adams

BY: YANG YANG

For anyone who has ever stared into the sky and contemplated our meager existence in such a vast universe, the answer is finally here.

In a stunning press conference on Saturday, Caltech math professor Richard Wilson claimed he has discovered the meaning of life, the universe, and everything.

So what was the answer to the question that has baffled generations of philosophers?

A simple number: 42.

Initially, many reporters believed it to be an April Fools' prank, but as leading mathematicians from around the world verified Wilson's proof, the atmosphere turned somber.

"What is that supposed to tell us," one flabbergasted reporter asked. "That I should drink 42 gallons of milk a day? Eat 42 pieces of

toast every morning? How can the ultimate answer be an integer?"

"Easily," Wilson replied. "It actually makes a lot of sense because almost everything can be described by a set of numbers," he said. "People, for example, can be crudely quantified through weight, height and other physical measurements. Of course, a person is much simpler than meaning of life, the universe and everything, but it shouldn't be surprising that an integer value can be the answer."

After the brief interruption, Wilson continued to describe his proof. However, his lecture style soon lulled the lay-audience to sleep, including much of the live viewership watching on television. Not wanting to seem irresponsible, many reporters just nodded and pretended to understand the proof soon after they awoke.

The most positive reaction by far have come from fans of Douglas Adams, whose book *Life, the Universe and Everything* facetiously declared the answer was 42. Many have begun to treat Adams's work as Holy Scripture, asserting that Adams was a prophet of the Lord.

"Only someone who has been touched by the hand of God could have had such vision," said Sarah Donaldson, a Douglas believer. "He knew things that ordinary men couldn't have known."

Some believers have renounced all their worldly possessions and plan on hitchhiking to the new Mecca, the grave of Douglas Adams. Others have begun to develop compulsions with the number 42.

In a surprising move, the Church of Scientology released a statement yesterday denouncing the formation of the new cult.

"No one should be foolish enough to take the words of a science fiction writer as religious truth," the statement said. "To completely change one's life for unproven, illogical quackery is just stupid."

So after discovering the meaning of life, the universe, and everything, what else is left for wilson?

"I don't know," he said. "More work I guess. There's always that cure for cancer."

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The Outside World

BY: HAMILTON FALK

PRESIDENT BUSH INVOKES 25TH AMENDMENT, CHENEY IN POWER

George W. Bush declared himself unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office Thursday, leaving Dick Cheney as acting President of the United States. While Bush did not provide a reason for his stepping down, sources have recently reported that Bush was "jonesin' for some chillaxin' time at the ranch" and "plum tuckered from all the thinkin' and thoughtin' he'd been doing as President."

Cheney described the news as bittersweet, suggesting that while he longed for pure, unadulterated power, as the Commander and Chief of the United States he would probably have to avoid shooting old men in the face "for at least a few weeks." The issues could be made moot, as several White House staff members have come forward claiming to have heard Bush call "seat-back" just before leaving Washington.

Mark Eichenlaub's Track Prattle

Caltech Runners Break Records, Bones

On Saturday April 1st, the women of the Caltech Track and Field team easily dominated their competition, winning the SCIAC Multi-Dual meet by the largest margin in the history of the event. Rene Davis led the women by winning 16 of the day's 19 events. Of the three she didn't win, two were relays. The last was the discus, as when Davis launched one of her discs up into the lower stratosphere her throw was ruled invalid on technical measuring considerations. Elette Boyle set a new world record for the triple jump, while Tencia Lee spotted the field 30 meters and still won the 200. When asked why her athletes were competing so well, head coach Julie Levesque cackled wildly and chanted, "I've sold my soul to the deformed man who represents all evil and haunts the dreams of sinners across the world."

I stared at the woman in horror and when the full nature of this truth hit me cried, "No, Julie, No! It wasn't worth it. Sure, Natalie Szweda just pole-vaulted Millikan Library and Angela Magee long-jumped the Grand Canyon, but how could you sell your soul to Ronald McDonald?"

"I have no regrets," was her flat reply as she used a javelin to kill old horses to chop up into eighth-inch

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES WIN WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC, WORLD SERIES OF POKER

After a season in which Philadelphia's NFL franchise lost many star players to injury, engaged in a public falling out with a superstar wide receiver and recorded only six wins, Eagles fans again have reason to be proud of their team. The Eagles defeated Japan 24-3 in the World Baseball Classic, aided by the strong hitting of DT Hollis Thomas (known as 'The Hamburgler'), who also sacked Japan's pitcher 3 times, and the excellent fielding of WR Todd Pinkston (known as 'The Little Girl') who said "Wow, it's so much easier to catch a ball when I'm not scared to death of getting tackled afterwards." The Eagles also won the main event at the World Series of Poker. When Coach Andy Reid was asked what he would do to celebrate, he took a large bite out of his cheese steak and grinned.

HARSH WINTER PLAGUES CITIZENS OF POOREST CONTINENT

Denizens of Antarctica, a continent with a per capita yearly income lower than any other continent at approximately 500 medium sized fish, have suffered another set back in their attempts to shed the chains of poverty. Following a summer in which temperatures failed to raise enough to melt the snow on the ground, a harsh winter is forecast. Scientists who study the weather on the continent predict that the winter of 2006 may be as cold and dark as the winters of 2005, 2004 and 2002, in which temperatures stayed below freezing for days on end. Despite attempts by several industrial nations to help the citizens of Antarctica, known as "penguins," by removing the ozone layer to let more sun light reach the ground and releasing greenhouse gasses, there will likely again be many deaths from both cold and seal this winter, in a land that can ill afford more tragedy.

GATORS LEAVE BASKET WIDE OPEN, BEAVERS SCORE

Photo by Lisa Tran



The Caltech Men's Basketball team preparing for their NCAA Division I Final Four match vs. the Florida Gators.

Continued From page 1

Southern California Inter-collegiate Athletic Conference Tournament, Caltech was the first 27th seed to reach the NCAA tournament.

They followed a stunning opening round victory over Michigan State with an equally surprising blowout of defending national champion North Carolina. After easing by number 1 seed Connecticut, they faced a familiar rival in the Elite Eight.

Caltech lost a tough game to Whittier at the end of the season, by one point, but got a chance to exact revenge. Given another chance to win a conference game (albeit in an unusual setting), the Beavers dispatched Whittier in a thriller to advance to the Final Four.

Even though it's unclear how the Beavers reached the tournament given they were unranked, they didn't win their conference tournament and they are a Division III team, no one is questioning the Beavers now.

When the Gators first took control of the game, the partisan, pro-Caltech crowd was largely silent, save for some esoteric "MIT SUCKS" chants. However, when the Beavers stormed back to close to within 2 at halftime, the stadium was in a state of pandemonium.

"It was simply amazing, baby!" exclaimed flamboyant announcer Dick Vitale.

As the game got close, even the Caltech prank-

sters were glued to their seats. Said an unnamed student who participated in an elaborate prank at MIT: "We planned months ago to rig the Final Four scoreboard to change the winning team's name to Caltech. So imagine our surprise when Caltech was actually in the game and, in fact, winning. We had no reason to change the scoreboard because the players were doing it for us."

Prank or no prank, it's time for Caltech to focus on their next opponent, #2 seed UCLA from nearby Westwood. Caltech might not measure up well with the ultra-talented Bruins, but that hasn't stopped them so far.

"We've always lost our top recruits to big schools like UCLA," said Coach Dow, "So this is our chance to show that sometimes, the little guy is boss. We have great respect for our neighbors and it's going to be a tough game, but I'm confident we can shock the world again."

So, does the glass slipper still fit for upstart Cinderella Caltech? The men from Pasadena are on a mission, and there's just one last step to take. When you think of technical schools with great athletic traditions, the names Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech and Texas Tech come to mind. If the Eager Beavers have enough in the tank to defeat one last juggernaut Monday, there will have to be an addendum to that list: Caltech!

Milosevic Leaves

Caltech Endowment

Slobodan Milosevic, former Yugoslavian president convicted of war crimes in the 1990's, died last month in The Hague, but not before leaving a generous \$28 million to The California Institute of Technology.

"It pains me to see students treated so badly by their administration," said Milosevic, who himself tortured and killed millions in

the Serbian and Yugoslavian area.

The endowment, which will be renewed annually, will go toward the Slobodan Scholars Fund, a scholarship for those applicants who display "presidential traits" and "superior leadership skills." White, Yugoslavian freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are highly encouraged to apply.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

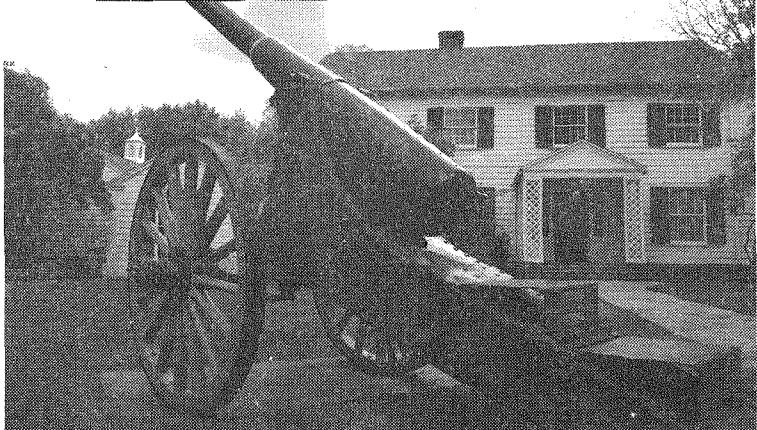


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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

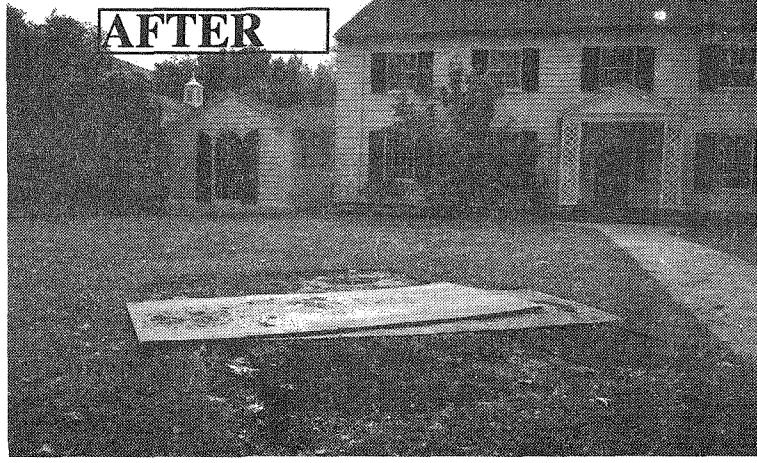
APRIL 3, 2006

BEFORE



Photos by Matthew Glassman

AFTER



Fleming Cannon Gone

BY: ANNA HISZPANSKI

Most Caltech students like a challenging puzzle. However, figuring out what happened to a 1.7 ton, 130-year-old, antique cannon with a twelve-foot barrel is proving to be more of a challenge than it initially appeared to be. Early Tuesday morning, at approximately 6:00 am according to security reports, the Fleming Cannon was realized to be missing.

A service mechanic noticed a gray and black early GMC model truck towing the Fleming Cannon on a trailer and alerted security at 5:26 am.

"When security stopped the truck [on Wilson Avenue], the people presented the security officer with a work order saying they were to move the cannon from Steele to the parking lot next to Spalding Building, which they in fact did," said Caltech Chief of Security, Gregg Henderson.

"That is not unusual for us; we do run into contractors that have work that we were unaware of [...] It's not unusual for us to have contractors come to campus and work at one or two in the morning."

The security officer guided the driver to the Spalding parking lot on California Boulevard, and the men unattached the trailer with the cannon from the truck.

However, the workers from the fictitious contractor "Rudolph and Sleppan" did not remove the Fleming Cannon from the trailer because the "foreman" stated that he feared the trailer may break in the process.

Believing the workers and papers to be legitimate, the security guard left them to their job. Approximately twenty minutes later according to the security report, the service mechanic who ini-

tially reported the truck contacted security again to alert them that he saw the men with the truck and cannon leaving eastbound on California Boulevard.

Security searched the area and found no signs of the men or the Fleming Cannon.

"This was not a couple of guys just getting together," said Henderson. "This was well planned and very sophisticated."

At this point no one knows who took the cannon or whether the incident was a theft or a prank.

"I'm not setting aside the possibility that it's a theft, but overall, based on everything that we've seen, my feeling is that it is a prank," said Henderson.

Several theories on who is responsible for the taking of the cannon are circulating the campus.

"The theory that makes the most sense is that [the incident] is somehow involved with Harvey Mudd since it happened around the twentieth anniversary of the last time they stole it," said Fleming House President Scott Jordan.

Twenty years ago, also in the latter part of March, a group of Mudders took the cannon in an effort to create a rivalry between Caltech and HMC. The students fork-lifted the cannon onto a truck around 8:30am, according to an issue of The California Tech from the week of the heist.

Similarly to the 2006 incident, students in 1986 posed as workers taking the cannon for restoration and provided forged work orders when security officers questioned them.

"Overall, the general feeling is that Mudd did it," said Henderson. "I'm waiting for it to show up on someone's lawn. I actually

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Caltech's chess team second place in nation.

Story Next Week!

Students Volunteer

BY: MATTHEW GLASSMAN

Instead of hopping on a plane to the tropics for a week of partying, some Techers opted for a less traditional way to spend their Spring Break this year. Two weeks ago, over forty students took part in three separate community service oriented trips organized by the Caltech Y. Devoting part or all of their highly-valued time away from classes, problem sets, and lab, these groups of undergraduates, graduates, and Y staff helped rebuild hurricane-ravaged Biloxi, Mississippi, experienced a different culture in Mexico, and went to dried out Owens Valley, California.

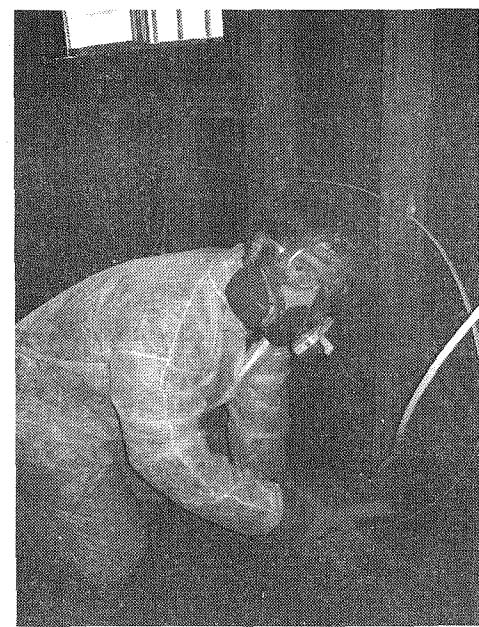
In addition to the variety of community service activities it offers throughout the year, the Caltech Y introduced the Alternative Spring Break trips to give students the opportunity to explore first-hand a number of problems that face the world today. This is not a new idea; it is a growing, nation-wide trend that the Y has been a part of for over a decade.

Student leaders do most of the

planning and organizing, commented Christopher Kealey, the Marketing and Development Director of the Y, who also went on the Owens Valley trip. "We're big on student leadership. Our bosses are ExComm," he said, referring to the group of students who play a large role in managing most of the Y's activities.

"On the trips, you get a great intermingling of grads and undergrads," Kealey noted. After a long day's work, the groups would often spend evenings together talking about environmental issues and learning about each other's values. These stimulating conversations were intended to get students reflecting on their own experiences. Kealey thought that it was important for students to not only get the chance to give back to society, but to learn something about themselves as well.

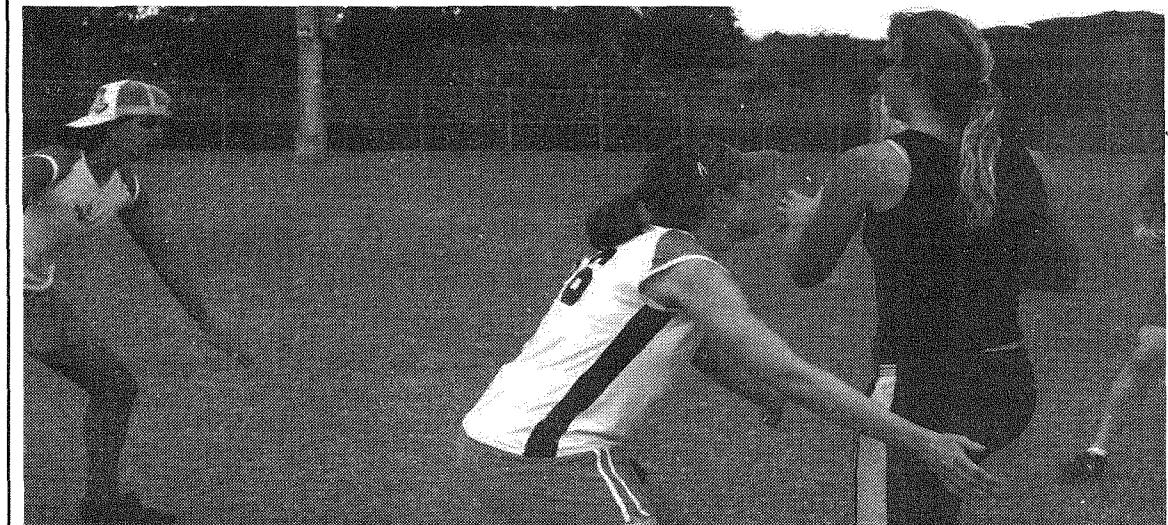
"I was impressed with how



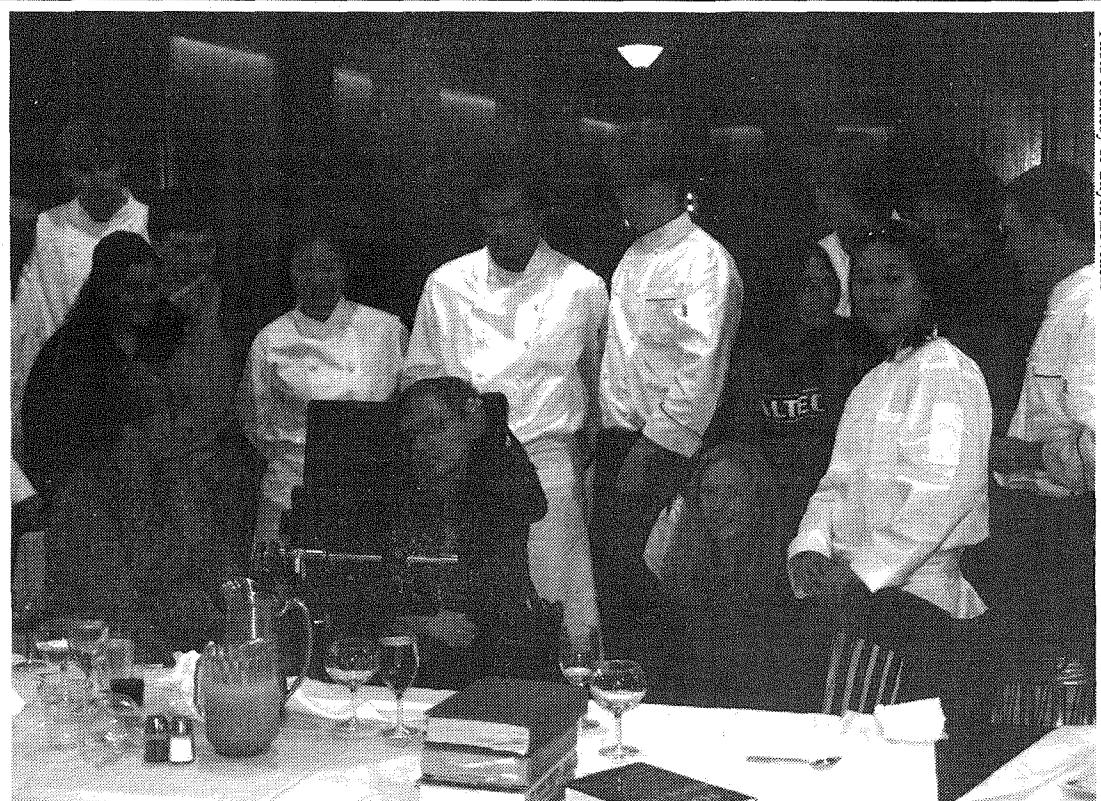
Mold remediation by Jonathan Gardner

quickly students jumped right in and became fully involved with what they were doing," recalled Jason Juarez, an intern on staff at the Y. Juarez preferred to think of the trips as "educational opportunities" rather than as class field trips where students were supposed to learn something pre-

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Katherine Poulin defends an upfield pass against UC-Chico, as the Caltech Women's Ultimate Frisbee Team, Snatch, goes on to win the UC-Irvine Tournament last Saturday. See page 10 for story.



Stephen Hawking meets with students in Tom Mannion's cooking class. Hear him speak this Tuesday; more information at <http://events.caltech.edu/events/event-3221.html>

Caltech's chess team second place in nation.

Story Next Week!

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Health Insurance Remains Mandatory

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Photo courtesy of Marissa Cevallos

Photo courtesy of Ghlyn Loveness

Students offer a helping hand to people in need

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planned.

Here are some of the details of each trip and the experiences some students had:

BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

"Wow, there used to be a town here," thought sophomore Abdul Ahad as he looked over one of the worst-hit areas of hurricane Katrina. "There are these tracks of land that are completely empty—you don't even realize that East Biloxi was a heavily populated region."

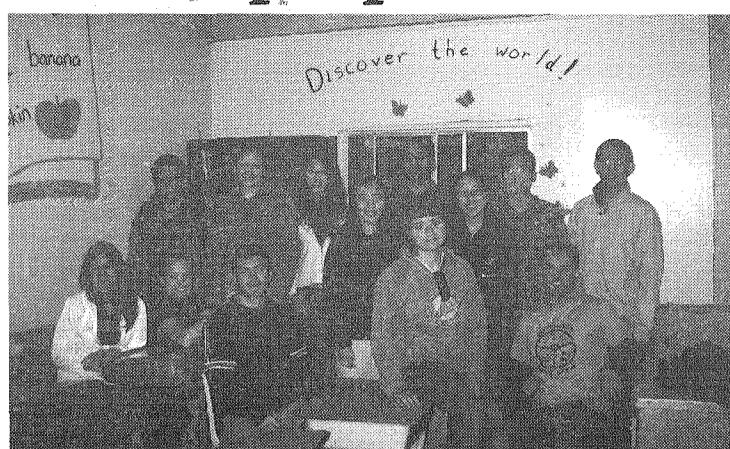
Ahad was one of the student leaders of the group that spent a week among the devastation left by the hurricane that struck in late August last year. Sixteen in all with two Y staff members and one graduate student, the Caltech group met up at a volunteer center at Pass Road in Biloxi, set up by the Hands On USA organization.

The center is run by volunteers

The members would gut out the interiors of flooded houses, don HAZMAT suits to de-mold the buildings, tutor kids at a local elementary school, and survey the locals about the restoration of their city, freshman Marissa Cevallos explained.

"I got two views when I was there. First, a lot of people felt powerless, which is entirely expected," said Ahad, pointing out the fact that the whole of the fishing industry in Biloxi was wiped out. "I also met people who were independent. Some people appreciated what you're doing, others were frustrated. That's okay because you have to understand what they've been through."

On the way back, the group spent a few hours looking around New Orleans, which was also badly ravaged by the hurricane. Some of the students described what they saw as surreal, since in the tourist districts, it was almost



has been an unsuccessful struggle for over eight decades.

A primary objective of the trip was to let the students make up their own minds about this major environmental matter. "The trip was planned so that we could hear both sides of the issue," said freshman Josephine Suh. The students talked with activists trying to protect the valley and people working for the LADWP. "It was good because we got to see this one issue in depth and debate about the complexities."

Besides learning about the controversy over the region, most of the four day trip was devoted to preventing the rapid environmental decline of the valley. The group cut down harmful species of plants and covered up certain paths to protect the landscape from erosion by errant hikers.

This experience gave each of the group members the opportunity to have an informed opinion on this particular issue and sparked interesting conversations about the moral conflict between urban sprawl and environmental conservation. The trip dealt with the consequences of Los Angeles being a metropolitan area affecting other regions in sometimes drastic manners that are often given minimal consideration.

From left to right, front row: Andreea Stuparu, Amy Trangsrud, Daniel Birt, Yijia Chen, Alexandra Velian, Angela Shih, Greg Fletcher. Back row: Simon Kung, Simona Tescu, Jennifer Yim, Rajan Kulkarni, Shawn Yu, David Chen

OWENS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Once a fertile grassland, the Owens Valley region is now essentially dry, a result of a losing battle with the city of Los Angeles over water rights. The majority of the water is redirected into an aqueduct that supplies Los Angeles with a third of its drinking water. A few hours north of Caltech, this region is now known for its desert-like appearance and the dry lake is often the source of the dust storms that plague the valley.

"The food was really good," Yijia Chen said, comparing their meals to some places around Caltech. "It totally wipes CDS off the table."

This was an entirely new experience for most of the group. "I've never really been to Mexico, so I didn't really know what to expect," recalled Jennifer Yim, a sophomore who had not been on a Caltech Y trip before. "I felt like I contributed something, but you can't really do too much in four days," she thought, having sympathy for the conditions people there were living in.

The 14 people who went on the trip were also given a tour of Tijuana, seeing first-hand the extreme disparity between the rich and the poor. "There were some people living in mounds of garbage," Yim remembered.

The group was also taken to the Mexican side of the border, from which many people have attempted the dangerous journey into the United States. There they found a memorial with crosses and flowers, dedicated to the thousands of people who died on their way north. This issue was very relevant with the current immigration bill being debated in Congress.

The trip offered students a very real perspective on the third-world problems that people face just across the border, only hours away from Caltech.

Break trip for many years now, a testament to the patience and persistence that are demanded especially of the least popular causes.

Fighting with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to rewater the valley

Overall, the Alternative Spring Break trips offered by the Caltech Y are designed to open up students to variety of struggles faced all throughout the world, some

caused by natural disasters and others caused by humans. The idea has been to promote a sense of responsibility to the community by offering the opportunity to give back.

Photo courtesy of Steve Gao

Photo courtesy of Jason Juarez

Photo courtesy of Andreea Stuparu

Photo courtesy of Steve Gao

Photo courtesy of

The Outside World

BY: HAMILTON FALK

CANADIAN, AMERICAN AND MEXICAN LEADERS MEET AT SUMMIT IN CANCUN

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, American President Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox all vowed to continue to increase cooperation on trade, health, security and other issues common to the North American nations. There were some tensions between Bush and Harper in response to U.S. legislation requiring passports for travelers between the U.S. and Canada, and over the American tariff on Canadian lumber, but on the whole the two leaders spoke proudly of relations between the countries. Harper was elected two months ago, and this is the first meeting between Bush and the new Canadian leader.

Despite the issues between the U.S. and Mexico concerning immigration policy, Fox and Bush were genial, with both agreeing to a guest worker policy that allowed illegal immigrants to work in low paying areas and offered assistance in the naturalization process. The summit made clear that North American relations are strong, despite recent disagreements over the war in Iraq and other issues.

DEBATE ON OPPOSING IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION SPARKS PROTESTS

Latino youth in Southern California have been protesting against legislation that would seek tighter border control, seen by many as an attack on their identities. Thousands of students skipped classes, marched through cities and blocked roads in protest of legislation currently in Congress.

The proposed legislation would tighten border security, in part by building fences along portions of the U.S. Mexico border, and also cracks down on illegal immigrants by making them felons, and prescribing legal penalties for any who aid them. Supporters of the bill maintain that low cost illegal immigrant workers bring down wages for American citizens. In addition, from this immigration the U.S. is draining other countries of their young workers and therefore damaging their already weaker economies.

An opposing bill in the Senate would create a guest worker program that would allow many currently illegal immigrants to work in the U.S. and would work to facilitate the path to citizenship for those who pay taxes, abide by American laws and learn to speak English. President Bush supports the bill in the Senate, although he has refused to state whether he

would veto the bill currently in the House.

JOURNALIST JILL CARROLL RELEASED FROM NEARLY THREE MONTHS CAPTIVITY BY INSURGENTS

Jill Carroll, a freelance journalist who had been writing about Iraq for The Christian Science Monitor, was set free after being held for 83 days by the Brigades of Vengeance, an Iraqi insurgent group. The reasons for her release are unclear; Carroll herself was not told why she was set free, nor is there any evidence that a ransom was paid.

The group had been demanding the release of all female prisoners by the U.S., which released 5 women earlier this week, although American officials maintain that these releases were already planned and occurred for unrelated reasons. A video of Carroll praising Iraqi insurgents and condemning Bush, posted on an Islamist website, may have been partially responsible as well.

While Carroll reports being treated well, her interpreter was found dead shortly after the January 7th abduction, and other victims of kidnapping are still missing. There are currently three journalists still being held in Iraq, as well as many others. Approximately 35 people were kidnapped in the war torn nation on Monday and Tuesday of this week, and experts see no sign of a decrease in the capture of foreigners for Iraqi insurgent groups.

LEADERSHIP OF OPPOSITION PARTY IN JAPAN RESIGNS

Japan's hopes for a true two party political system suffered a setback with the resignation of top leaders of the Democratic Party of Japan due to a fake e-mail scandal. Party leader Seiji Maehara and other top officials stepped down in attempt to limit the damage to their party's credibility after a member used a fraudulent e-mail in an attempt to damage the Liberal Democratic Party, which has dominated Japanese politics for the past fifty years. The Democratic Party of Japan had recently apologized when lawmaker Hisayasu Nagata revealed an e-mail that suggested links between the son of the ruling party secretary-general and an internet company under investigation for doctoring earnings.

Although the party had made gains in 2003 and 2004 parliamentary elections, it was crushed by the Liberal Democratic Party's coalition. Japan's leading opposition party blamed the scandals on inexperience, and intends to continue attempts to create a two party political system in Japan.

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Cannon's Location Still a Mystery

Continued from page 3

have people from my group that are going out to Claremont on a daily basis looking for it."

However, Caltech has contacted HMC, and nobody at HMC has claimed responsibility.

"I've been told [...] that we contacted a dean at Harvey Mudd, and he didn't know anything of it," said Jordan. "The [Mudd] dean sent an email to the students asking if anyone had it. If it is Harvey Mudd students, the majority of them don't know it, and they're doing a good job hiding the cannon."

Another theory is that MIT students took the cannon in retribution for the pranks played on them last year by Caltech students during MIT's prefresh weekend. According to Henderson, Tom Mannion has contacted MIT and is looking into this possibility, but nothing has come up yet.

Some others believe that the original Mudders who took the cannon in 1986 are responsible for this incident, as well. This seems unlikely, though, since according to Henderson, the seven to eight men involved in the incident were "somewhere in their twenties."

Typically, however, pranking parties leave identifying notes or hints so that those being pranked may contact them if problems arise. No notes were left, and as days pass and still no one claims responsibility or contacts Caltech, Henderson is taking the matter more seriously.

"I filed a police report early this morning [Thursday, March 30th] for grand theft," said Henderson.

"The reason I delayed [in filing the report] is because I was hoping to hear that it was a prank [...] My filing of the police report now requires me to say, yes, we will prosecute. Now if it is a prank, I don't want to throw some kid in jail for that."

Fleming House is also taking the matter seriously, particularly because the cannon is not RF-able (RF is a Caltech term for a prank) according the Inter House Committee's Resolution I, Section 6, which states:

"...Specifically exempted from RFs are the Blacker dining hall tapestry, the Fleming House Bell, the Fleming Cannon, the wall-sized Fleming Flag, the Lloyd Gong, the Ricketts House Gong, the Ricketts House brakedrum, the Ricketts Firepot Grill, and the Discobolus Trophy due to their irreplaceable natures."

"Part of the reason why the cannon is not prankable is because of its age; we're not sure when something might break," said Jordan. "That's why it would not be in good humor if it was pranked because it's historic, valuable, and fragile."

Security and Ted Doyle, the Fleming Cannon Master, are working on developing new methods of communication to prevent a similar incident in the future.

"Ted Doyle and I talked about better ways to secure the cannon, better ways of communication so [Security] know[s] if the cannon is being worked on—really opening lines of communication," said Henderson. "We discussed ways to perhaps lock it down, under-

standing that the cannon is in a temporary position."

Before its theft, the cannon sat on the lawn of Steele House on Holliston Avenue, across the street from the Holliston parking structure and Security Office. Steele House was the cannon's temporary home since its permanent parking space in front of Fleming House is unavailable due to the South Houses' renovation.

According to Henderson, in its previous position in front of Fleming House, the cannon was typically locked to the ground.

Currently, however, everyone's efforts are focused on simply having the cannon returned safely and quickly.

Originating from the Franco Prussian War, the cannon was obtained by Fleming in 1972 from Southwestern Academy in San Mario which was trying to revise its military image. Besides its monetary worth, the Fleming Cannon is considered a priceless part of Fleming House and Caltech.

"This is a precious piece of Caltech history that I want to see preserved," said Henderson. "If someone was to call me today and say 'We have your cannon, we know where it is, everything's safe,' then okay—no problem. Give it back to Fleming, and we'll resolve the issue. There's way too much history on the part of Caltech and the cannon at stake."

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of the Fleming Cannon or pertaining to the case are asked to please contact Caltech Security at (626) 395-4701.

ASCIT DVD Library Returning Soon

BY: VIBHA LALJANI

The ASCIT DVD library will have a new home in the Coffee-House sometime during this term. Christopher Watson, the Freshman Director at Large (FDAL), has been entrusted with the responsibility of putting it together.

Almost everything is ready. The entire video library has been located. The DVDs are physically with Graham Christopher Yao-kum, who has been in-charge of the Movie Library for awhile.

The BoD has also found most of the equipment necessary for the library, such as the bar code reader, the swipe card and the monitor. Unable to find the old Movie Library computer, the required software will probably be

installed on the old BoC laptop.

The DVD library was set-up a few years ago. Much effort and ASCIT funds have gone into buying new DVDs, replacing stolen ones and developing a better security system. For instance, DVDs worth \$1700 were bought in October 2004.

The library was previously for undergrads only. Things changed when ASCIT was offered \$1000 from the Moore-Hufstedler Fund for the library, one condition being that the Movie Library be open to graduate students as well. Several undergrads expressed concerns about this offer, claiming that over the years, several undergrads have put in effort into the library and that it is unfair for graduate students to be able

Wanna explore something different?
Be a part of the JPL Open House on May 20th and 21st.

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Interested (registered Caltech students only) please contact Yvette Santana at (626) 395-2572 or yvette.santana@caltech.edu

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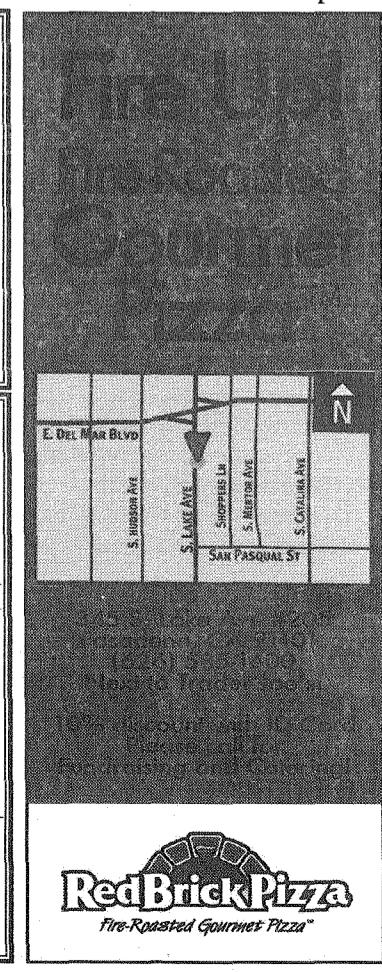
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Drink o'the Week

You Will Do

BY: JOHN McNAMARA

Juice of a half lemon
Splash of Herbsaint
3 part rye whiskey
1 part egg white
1 dash of Angostura bitters



Being at Tech so long, I wonder if this experience causes us to notice small things about the world around us. It makes me wonder if our knowledge of science sheds light on every slight detail of reality. A bug is no longer a six legged pest, but a collection of cells protected by a chitin exoskeleton. Each cell carries out its function by a complicated logic of proteins dancing around a strand of DNA. DNA consists of molecules which rely on varying numbers of protons,

neutrons and electrons holding one to another. The bug moves its legs by the control of a network of neurons learning and synchronizing the motion.

The bug stands amid the forces and stresses on its joints. It survives if it can balance.

But it did not balance and the shit-eating pest landed in my drink. Despite these observations, I am not amused. I now realize that being at this maddening monastery of math, science and engineering causes me to notice details such as these. Ironically, in the face of this fact, I have gone blind after three and two thirds years.

We call this blindness the Caltech goggles. These make mustaches disappear, shrink numbers and increase letters. Watching the world through

FEATURES

these goggles, we neglect our appearance and know to count the days until the nearest vacation.

So we become accustomed to having things close enough, such as this drink. To make it, squeeze one half of a lemon into a shaker filled with cracked ice. Muscles associated with this become overdeveloped the longer you have been here. Save a twist for your eyes to shield you from further horror. Pour the rest of the ingredients and shake vigorously. Strain into a high glass. It will be foamy and chartreuse in color. Herbsaint adds a nice anise flavor along the bite of the lemon. This would be a wonderful cocktail if it was not for one problem: it smells like shampoo. I have no idea how this happened and would be upset otherwise, but I have ceased caring. It is good enough.

Todd's Paperside Chat

Student-Faculty Relations

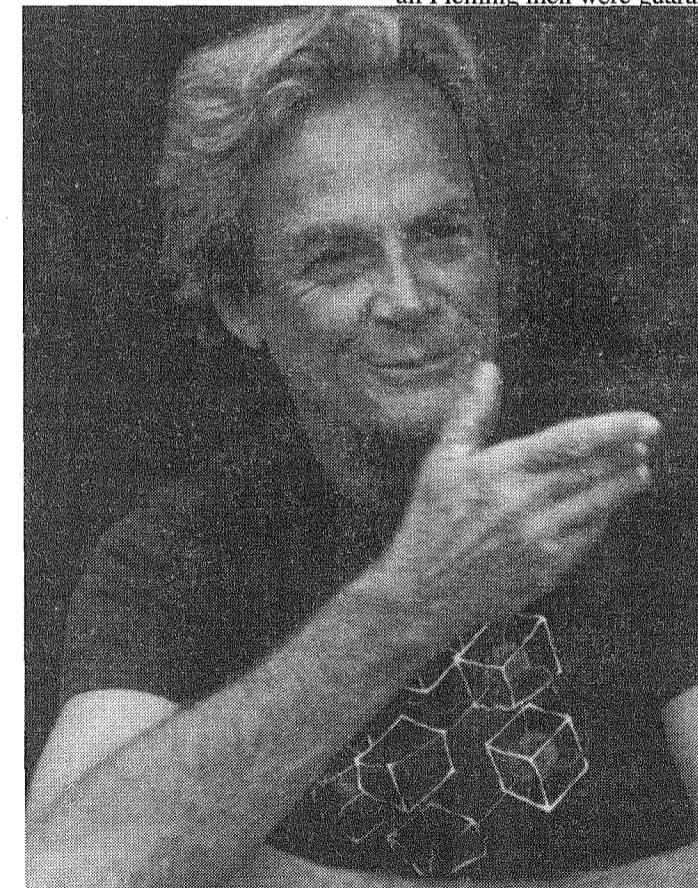
This week I'm going to cheat a little with my article. With the permission of Michelle Feynman, I'm borrowing some words from a man much more distinguished than myself. In 1969, Richard Feynman printed the following letter to the faculty in the California Tech. Clearly the letter is a little dated and times have changed, but there is still substantial room for improving student-faculty relations. It is true that our professors are now busier than ever keeping up with grant proposals and bureaucratic paperwork, but at a school with a 3:1 student to faculty ratio I seem to think we can do a better job of incorporating some more professors into student life. This challenge rests mainly on the students and the houses, both of which could benefit greatly by initiating a little more contact with the faculty. ASCIT offers funding from the MOSH to take a professor to lunch with a group of friends. Funding requests can easily be made at any of the Wednesday BoD meetings at noon on the Olive Walk. Additionally the MOSH also provides funding to invite professors to house dinners. If anyone has questions or ideas about promoting student-faculty relations, feel free to contact me at gingrich@caltech.edu.

Richard Feynman's Letter to the Faculty

It is generally believed that the Caltech student is unhappy, and that all he needs is social recognition by the faculty. For that reason, there have been many studies and committees working on the problem of student-faculty relations. Up to now, we of the faculty have so often made every conceivable effort with no response by the students at all. I wish to report here, however, some glimmering of a beginning of a smart student effort in that direction. An effort, which I believe should be answered by the faculty.

Having been invited to Page House last Saturday evening, I was watching a moving picture, when I was captured by a number of men and women in togas and wooden swords, and carried off to Fleming where I was dressed (by lovely handmaids) in a toga, given a crown and declared emperor (of what the more straitlaced among you might call a Roman orgy). I was served breads with four kinds of cheeses and wines while watching gladiators battle for my amusement. An

oracle declared that the emperor needed a consort, so four maidens were selected for me to choose from. After watching them dance for me, I found myself with my head in the lap of one of the most beautiful and gracious ladies of Claremont, being fed grapes, of course, while we watched a play. (I had difficulty keeping track of the play.) Whatever I wished was granted—my back was rubbed with special lotions prepared for the occasion (by the Zoltan Tokes I understand); a pan of hot water was brought, my lady removed my shoes and socks and I soaked my feet, while a group of musicians on recorders and drums played for me. A dancing Bacchus proffered wine and more wine; and a most delicious hot buttered rum was prepared (more than once) for the emperor. As in all such situations, jealousies arose, and there was an attempt to depose the emperor, but having



been previously warned by a spy among my coterie of handmaids I found it easy to put down the attempted revolution.

Finally it was decided (after some tests) that I need not drive my own chariot home, and a sober charioteer was found to escort me. Taking account of their inexperience in entertaining faculty (they were unable to produce a kumquat on demand), I think this represents a sincere

an A in physics to make them deliriously happy. I am sure my colleagues will find it easy to arrange to make my promise into reality—in the name of student-faculty relations, so this campus may never fear the troubles that beset others.

And to the men of Fleming, and their ladies, thank you. I had the time of my life!

Ricardus Feynmanius, Emperor

Cinema

Block Party

BY: CINDY KO

In the relatively few years after his show's debut in 2003, Dave Chappelle has gone from being a nobody to a household name. His jokes range over all sorts of topics and he, like many good comics, is well known for being able to push the limits of political correctness and come away on everyone's good side. On his show, his sketches are often silly spoofs that involve exaggerated impersonations and funny costumes. In the college-age group, Chappelle's sketches are the source of many oft-quoted phrases; he imitates people, and people want to imitate him.

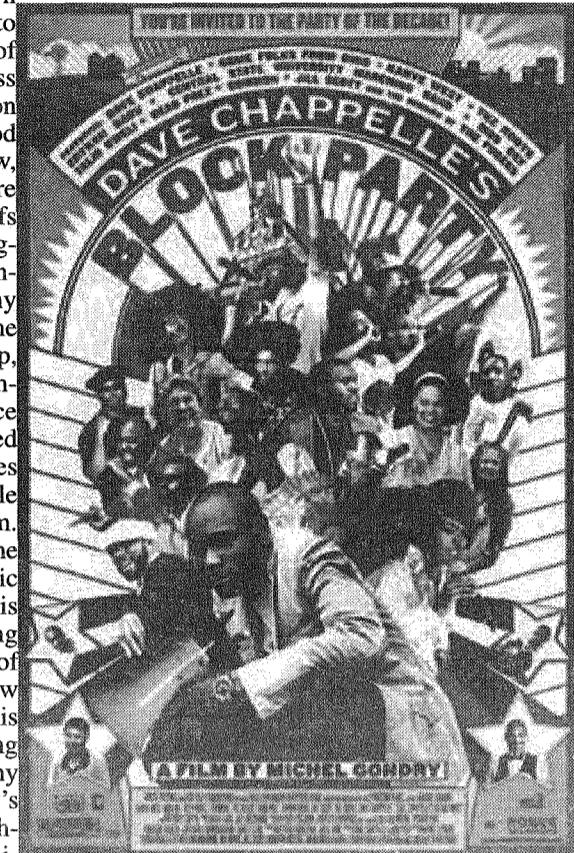
In a short time, he has built an iconic identity with this audience. Among the demographic of college kids, few haven't seen his hilarious retelling of Charlie Murphy—Eddie Murphy's lesser-known brother—and his complicated relationship with cracked-out music legend, the late Rick James. This particular sketch is fairly well known, mainly because it features key phrases like, "Cocaine's a helluva drug," and another one that I can't print because my mother reads this newspaper. But it's funny, trust me.

Anyway, I got excited when I heard about Dave Chappelle coming out with a film (woo!), directed by Michel Gondry (woohoo!), the guy who directed *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. It's like double plus super awesome time. I guess I was expecting something like a really long, really funny Dave Chappelle Show episode, with Gondry's quirky French touch. When I watched the trailer, I learned that it's actually about some secret block party that Chappelle threw in Brooklyn for the neighborhood. (My sister said she had heard about it, but decided not to go because it was raining. Pooooo.) Anyway, although the trailer indicated that it wasn't going to be like a long Chappelle Show at all, I still hoped in vain.

Ehhh, it's not a bad movie, but I didn't enjoy it as much as I could have for a few reasons. One was that I went into the movie expecting something pretty specific. I wanted Chappelle to make jokes until my gut exploded, but through the whole movie I think the closest I got was like, three "huh hah"s. The film was mainly about how Chappelle wanted to throw the "ultimate block party" that he always wanted to attend, and now that he was rich and famous, he could do it. The first half of the movie is about how the concert was set up, and the second half is the concert itself.

Chappelle invited some of his top favorite big name rappers, like Mos Def and Kanye West, probably because he was a big fan and wanted to meet them. Most people that attended found out about it by word of mouth, but a few were sent from Dayton, Ohio by way of Golden Ticket. That is, not only did Chappelle want to give the ultimate concert, he wanted to give it to the type of normal ev-

eryday people that usually never did this sort of thing. It was a very nice and generous gesture, but hey, when you're rich you can do that sort of thing. At any rate, the film sort of is a cross between a documentary and a 'home movie,' which is at once entertaining and slow moving. Also, a good portion of the screen time is dedicated to the performances, proba-



bly so that the audience can share the experience of the block party, as well. I only wish I knew more about the rap acts that played; it made me feel bad that I was sort of bored watching them perform. I recognized their names, and some of their music, but it wasn't enough to keep me fully entertained. I was still pretty stuck on the idea that Chappelle would suddenly scoot onstage and do something funny, but he only did it for a little bit, and it was only moderately 'haha'.

Probably the biggest highlight of the movie is at the end. It turns out that Dave Chappelle is so famous that he can pull together an all day block party, give ordinary people the chance to attend a good concert, and—most impressively—reunite the Fugees. (If you don't already know, the Fugees were a hallmark hip hop/rap act that broke up in the 90s due to irreconcilable differences... well, the only thing you really need to know is that it's a big deal. Like, bringing Sonny and Cher back together, or something.) It was great to see them perform together at the end, although from their rusty performance, it was fairly obvious that the members had really grown in different directions since the split. Still, a miracle of music history, thanks to Dave Chappelle.

If you were thinking about going to go see it, don't make the same mistake I did in thinking that it was going to be a comedy. I would more highly recommend the film to the music fans, as it gives the audience a very good view of every act.

Next week: Hopefully, I can get a copy of Jenny Lewis and the Watson Twins' *Rabbit Fur Coat*, in time for the next issue.

Grade:
B

PRISM announces GAYpril!

BY: PRISM OFFICERS

Looking around, it's sometimes difficult to see that Caltech is a community of people with a diversity of backgrounds. You can count the number of minority students on a few hands. The dearth of female students is more of a harsh reality than just a cruel joke of the Admissions Office. For a population that finds it difficult to escape from labs, classrooms, and Houses, one could actually experience four or more years at Caltech without ever truly getting to know a minority student. To miss out on the chance to experience diversity is truly a shame. And yet there is another population of students, faculty, and staff that actually infiltrates every community within Caltech. A couple hundred email addresses are subscribed to the anonymous listserv. They live in your Houses. They work in your labs. Some are too afraid to publicly admit that they are part of this community. Others are not quite comfortable identifying as part of this community. Some might not realize they are a part of it. Still others might not be interested in accentuating that part of their life from day to day. For whatever reason, the diversity of this community goes unnoticed.

In an attempt to reach out to these people and to educate the rest of Caltech of some of their concerns and in the vein of months that celebrate diversity such as Black History Month and Women's History Month PRISM is excited to declare April to be GAYpril! That's right. Put your scoffs aside. Living and working among you is a substantial community of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT). Others define themselves as a mix of these. Others find themselves questioning how they define their sexuality. (That's where the "Q" comes in.) They carry with them a unique set of experiences. And so GAYpril provides an opportunity for all straight, LG-BTQ, or any combination thereof to find out more about what it means to be LG-BTQ.

This article is the first in a series of four devoted to showcasing the LGBTQ community during this month of GAYpril. Here we aim to introduce you to GAYpril and tell you a bit about what you can expect to see in the coming month. While the LGBTQ community at Caltech does not have a specific department devoted to issues pertaining to this minority group, many student groups and allying offices will be hosting programs. PRISM the club open to all members of the Caltech community is the main sponsor of this month of events that will celebrate the diversity, the trials and tribulations, and the fabulousness of the queer community. We are fortunate to have co-sponsors and primary sponsors of many events. This past weekend, the Caltech Y's "Make A Difference Day" included a service project organized and participated in by PRISM members serving the Pasadena AIDS Center. The Graduate Student Council's Under-represented Students Committee is presenting "Licensed to Kill," a film documentary about the Nazi execution of homosexuals during World War II as part of its monthly LGBT film series. The Women's Center is helping organize a barbecue for female members of the LBTQ community. Through its Healthy Relationship Series, it will also present "Out and About," a workshop on gay and lesbian romantic relationships. Throughout the year, the Counseling Center hosts a bimonthly discussion group at which we discuss movies, politics, personal matters, and anything else that people want to talk about in a safe environment that really encourages diversity. One of the two meetings this month will be devoted to transgender issues, following a lunch with a speaker who will talk about what it means to be transgender. Another speaker tentatively arranged to come to Caltech will speak on the same-sex mar-

riage debate. Planned social events include a movie/spa night and an outing to see the new movie "Adam and Steve."

It doesn't matter if you are gay, bi, trans, straight, questioning, or otherwise anyone is invited to learn more about the LGBTQ community. All are truly welcome and encouraged to come to these events. You don't have to be gay to watch a movie with us or to come to a free lunch! Many heterosexual members of the Caltech community consider themselves to be allies of the LGBTQ population and will be attending these events. Even if you aren't an ally, you might come to find out more about LGBTQ issues or to hear an opposing viewpoint. We will particularly be inviting all to get involved with the National Day of Silence on April 26th when Caltech will join other colleges and high schools nationwide in this demonstration. Stay tuned to hear more about this opportunity.

Check out PRISM's website at <http://rainbow.caltech.edu> for more details.



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Health Care to Remain Mandatory

BY: MENG-MENG FU

Over spring break, senior administrators, led by Dr. David Baltimore, decided to continue mandatory student health insurance for all incoming students. The cost of health insurance will appear under student fees (this year's premium was \$1,668 per student) and thus will be covered by financial aid. This decision reversed the plan outlined during town-hall meeting (<http://www.studaff.caltech.edu/townhall.htm>): "the cost of health insurance will no longer be included in financial aid calculations for new students ..."

Under consideration were two options: require all freshmen to purchase the Caltech health insurance plan or allow freshmen with alternative health insurance plans that satisfy a number of stringent requirements to waive out of the Caltech insurance plan. The strict waiver would obviously benefit those students who can opt-out of the plan, because they would not have to pay for the additional Caltech health plan. The subsequent decrease in total cost of attendance for students who could waive out would also potentially make Caltech more attractive to prospective students. Most colleges do allow students to waive out of the health insurance plans; for example, 90% of Harvey Mudd students opt-out of the school's health insurance.

Making the health insurance mandatory has three primary benefits: the premium would not increase significantly, confidentiality of treatment will be maintained, and health care will not become disjointed. First, having the strict waiver would decrease the number of subscrib-

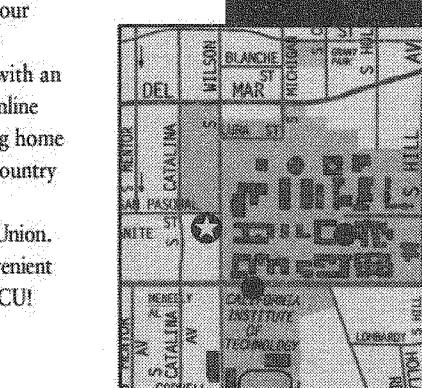
ers and thus increase the cost of the insurance premium for those who remain on the Caltech health plan.

Second, many students were concerned that direct billing to parents under the strict waiver plan would result in parents receiving information on services, such as birth control, mental healthcare, or other medications (such as anti-depressants). This could potentially be the case for students under the age of 18 or for students who are able to opt-out of the Caltech health insurance plan. Fortunately, this is not a problem under the mandatory health plan.

Another issue involves the quality of health care. Currently, the Caltech Health and Counseling Center helps students with outside referrals (e.g. X-rays, lab work and access to specialists) and can follow-up with a student and the outside provider to ensure that the student is receiving care. For students who waive out of the Caltech plan, outside health care could be delayed and fragmented, because the search for a specialist or services would largely depend on the student and the Caltech Health Center would not be in communication with the outside providers.

Of particular concern was the accessibility to mental health care. According to Dr. Kevin Austin, Director of the Health and Counseling Center, about 20% of undergraduate students use the counseling center. Of that population, about 27% (i.e. 5.4% of the total undergraduate population) are referred for outside treatment. Currently, the Counseling Center is able to refer students to psychiatrists and other mental health providers who have treated Caltech students in the past and are familiar with the environment and stressors on campus. Students who waive out of the Caltech plan and then need outside psychiatric help may not pursue further treatment, because it is inconvenient for them to find a specialist covered by their specific health plan or because they do not want to pay for the high out-of-pocket expenses of mental health care. Also, they might receive more stigmatizing diagnoses so that they can continue treatment under their health plans. The current rate of suicides in the past four academic years among undergraduates is zero; some say that this may be proof of how well our mental health coverage works.

The faculty health committee met last term and recommended the mandatory plan to administrators, because the current mandatory plan works well and ensures that *all* students have dependable access to services. The committee is chaired by Prof. Philip Hoffman and includes undergraduate student representatives Angela Chang, Csilla Felsen, Meng-meng Fu, and Dorota Korta. However, the committee also recognized that the mandatory policy would impose significant costs to students, parents, and financial aid. Provost Paul Jennings notes that the student insurance policy is more comprehensive and more expensive than the plan for Caltech faculty and staff (including those at JPL). The faculty and staff health insurance programs are evaluated annually and like other institutions, Caltech has had to shift a larger fraction of escalating health care costs to the employee. Thus, the Health Committee is currently charged with redesigning the student health insurance plan for the 2007-2008 school year to decrease the cost to students and the Institute. Student input will be vital in this process to ensure that important coverage is not lost.



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Europeans Censor Only Themselves, Not Foreigners

Dear Editors,

I feel Noah Rahman missed the point in his commentary on the cartoon controversy. He wrote that Europeans censor all material about Nazis or the Holocaust, and that for this reason they have no right to condemn the reaction of the Muslim world to the cartoons.

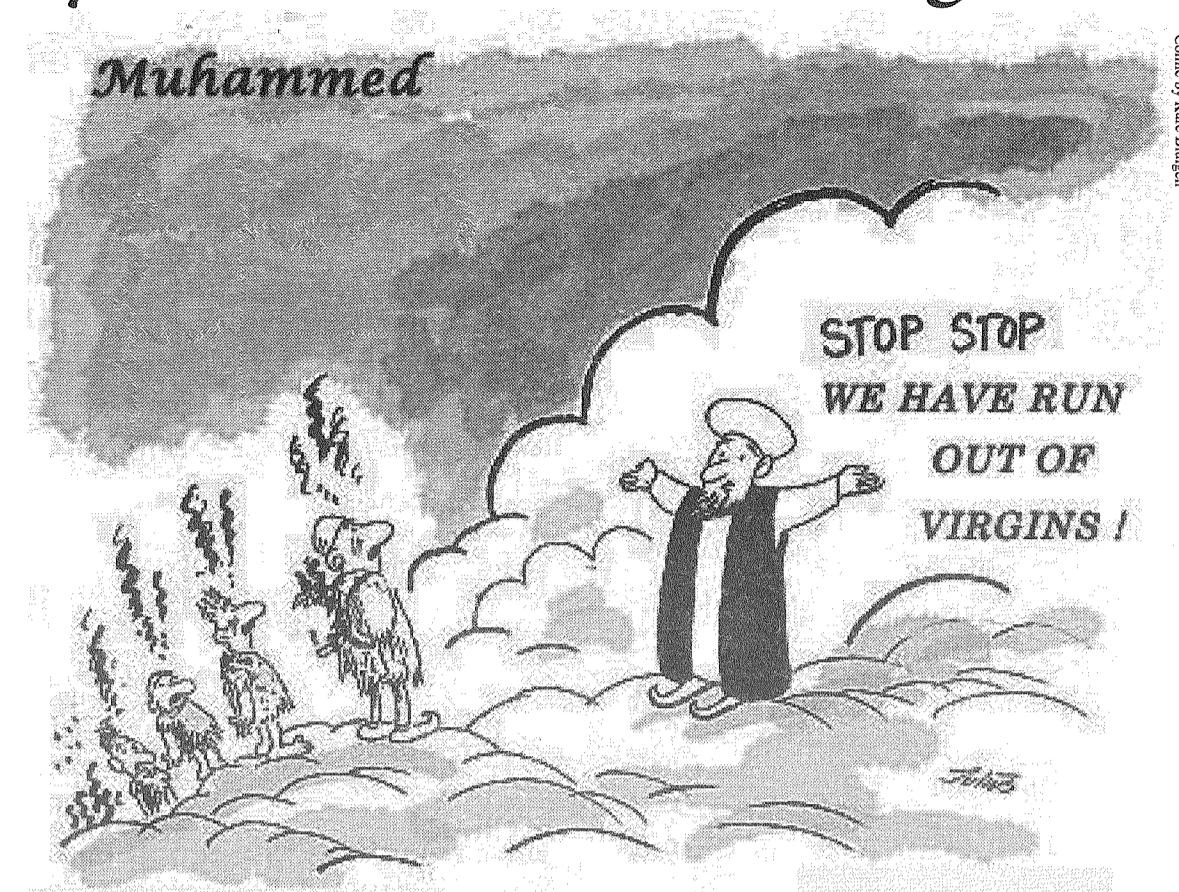
In Germany there is indeed censorship regarding Nazis and the Holocaust. It is limited to positive statements about the Nazis or denying that the holocaust has happened, or that only a few thousand people died instead of millions.

We certainly don't have freedom of speech in that respect, but it is done with the best of intentions, as we don't want history to repeat itself (whether this is an effective prevention is a different issue). However, Germans are not reading local newspapers in other countries to see if they might write something that goes against our self-imposed censor. Hitler's "Mein Kampf" was number two in Turkey's bestseller list last year. Yes, it is forbidden to sell this book in Germany, but we do not complain (let alone utter bomb threats) if other countries feel they have to express their admiration for Nazis. That is the big

difference between self-imposed censure in Europe and forced censure for fear of offending Muslims (and of becoming the target of bomb threats). During the cartoon controversy it seemed that a lot of Muslims want the entire world to conform to their moral standards, and that they are ready to enforce this sentiment through whatever means possible.

Furthermore I don't believe there exists perfect freedom of speech in America either. I have never read nor heard anything even close to anti-semitism here, and there are a lot of dark spots in America's history about which nobody seems to talk, yet I have heard a lot about in Europe (the massacres of native Americans come to mind). Freedom of speech is never perfect and each country has its own limits of discussion that seem strange to outsiders.

Finally, I would like to add that Muslims have every right to be offended by the cartoons. But every day, countless people are offended by countless newspaper items (myself included) and there is simply no way out of that. Even if we limit all items to statements of facts only, there are probably people who feel offended because they think that statements of fact don't do credit to the emotional



Comic by Karel Bluijen

One of the inflammatory comics originally printed by the Jyllands-Posten, a Danish newspaper.

part of the item. But the way a person reacts to offenses is the thing that matters, and in my opinion many Muslims went way over

the line with their protests about a newspaper article that was published in one small newspaper in one small country.

Sincerely,
Franziska Dammeier
Caltech '07, Ricketts

My Own Story of Running at Caltech

A Response to Mark Eichenlaub

Mark Eichenlaub looks fast. His angular face is chiseled as if to pass a wind-tunnel test, and he looks out of place sitting still in a chair next to me in class. I look athletic and fast too, but I am not. I am slow, and chairs are the natural environment in which I am most comfortable.

Mark beautifully describes in his weekly columns the toiling of runners. He explains how he loves and cherish "every last drop of pain" that comes with physical effort.

"During Spring Break I gave a try at a timed 5k. I tied my personal best of 22'48". For those of you who are not runners, as a reference I would say that Mark can probably beat that time while hopping on one leg for the last mile."

Perhaps my instinct for self-preservation is stronger than Mark's, but an irresistible inner drive guides me to the avoidance of pain. I have never felt "a nascent power in my legs," rather, when I run, my legs complain, until my lungs take notice and join in a choral protest. Then, attentive to the demands of my body, I slow down my pace and continue at a gentler trot. This explains why I never leap ahead of the other runners, but rather trail far behind the pack.

Mind you, I am not a couch potato. I used to play soccer, I exercise every once in a while... I go far, but slowly. I finished the LA Marathon once. A fellow grad and beautiful blonde seemed impressed as I bragged about it, and then she praised my patience: she was impressed that I could take seven hours to reach the end line and not be driven to run faster by the anxiety of finishing quicker. Unbeknown to me she had run the LA Marathon too, but in half my time.

Back in college I once came 11th in the annual cross-country race. Out of a student body over 30 000, 11th is relatively as good

as first at Caltech. However, I went to college in a laid back, sunny town where "sacrifice" is a word with negative connotations. It happened to rain that day, and only ten athletes and I ran the race. All but one lapped me.

Speaking of lapping, I had a friend in the women's track and field team, and jesting with her, I committed to try to run a 5k in a time such that while she would

beat me, she would not lap me. I trained a little bit over the winter, nothing close to serious, just a few spurious jogging forays here and there. During Spring Break I gave a try at a timed 5k. I tied my personal best of 22'48". For those of you who are not runners, as a

reference I would say that Mark can probably beat that time while hopping on one leg for the last mile. After doing the numbers, my female friend would have beaten me by about 650m, or more than 1 1/2 laps. So, failure for me.

I suppose I could have gone faster, after all, I wasn't overwhelmingly exhausted when I finished. But it was painful to run, and running faster would be even more painful. Glory comes with pain; let committed athletes enjoy both. I speak on behalf of the rank and file of common folk who merely want to stay healthy: we jog slowly, and we get our exercise as painlessly as possible. And if an athlete like Mark has enough time to download and listen to the whole track of "Chariots of Fire" in between his arrival at the finish line and mine, well, what's the hurry? I'll get there too, eventually.

Sincerely,
Jon X Eguia

The War on the War on The War Against Terror

Dear Editors,

I was deeply offended (as I assume many people were) by your article "Infidels is Bitches" in the March 13th issue of the Tech. I'd like to make it clear that I am no conservative, I do not consider myself a support of Bush and I could probably be convinced that Canada and Australia are far better nations, foreign policy and collective culture-wise, than the United States at this point. This being said, many of the attacks by Mukherjee were unwarranted and insulting.

His assertion that the United States boycotted every nation that didn't assist in the "War on Terror" is just plain false, and the example given by Mukherjee of Kashmir as a situation in which the U.S. did not help a foreign nation refers to a sticky political situation between two nations the United States would like to remain friendly with.

In addition, he compares the number of deaths in other nations with 9/11 and because there is less news coverage of foreign disasters labels America as a prejudiced nation that considers other ethnic groups to be "2%" of a human, never considering the factors involved. 9/11 occurred on America soil, killed Americans and was targeted at the United States government and its citizenry. It is logical that the targets of an attack would want to know about it, while events on the other side of the world are less well covered. Does Mukherjee think that Katrina was as large a story in Pakistan as the earthquakes there? All people are biased towards local events; this does not make them racists.

On the issue of wrongful treatment of minorities in airports, I condemn anyone who suggests that it is legitimate to violate civil rights for any reason, even during war. That being said, some Amer-

icans hold a bias against people from the Middle East, but at least the American culture frowns on this, while terrorist are willing to kill Americans simply based on the country they live and work in, with absolutely no consideration of the people they kill as individuals. It is foolish to attempt to justify acts of terror by calling Americans prejudiced.

Perhaps most jarring is the portion of the statement by Mr. Mukherjee that Osama bin Laden is "the most brilliant and charismatic leader on the face of the planet." Even if this statement is technically true (which it may be, although it seems unlikely), Hitler was also an intelligent and popular man, but it is rare that those terms are used alone to describe him.

Regardless of the reasons Osama has for attacking the U.S., the murder of thousands of innocent people to make a political statement is wrong, and anyone who would bring about such an attack is morally twisted. The very efficiency that Mukherjee praises terrorism for comes from the fact that they strike civilian targets, while the U.S., despite occasional mistakes, makes every attempt to attack only soldiers. I most certainly do not support the War on Terrorism, and I would prefer that it receive no more funding, but once the political decision has been made, maintaining moral standards instead of killing innocents as terrorists do is the most justifiable inefficiency I can imagine. While I agree that the United States should not be engaging in a "war on terror," especially in the way it is, and that mistreatment of ethnic groups based on the actions of a few terrible people is unfortunate, Mukherjee could have presented these issues in a far less offensive way.

Sincerely,
Hamilton Falk

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

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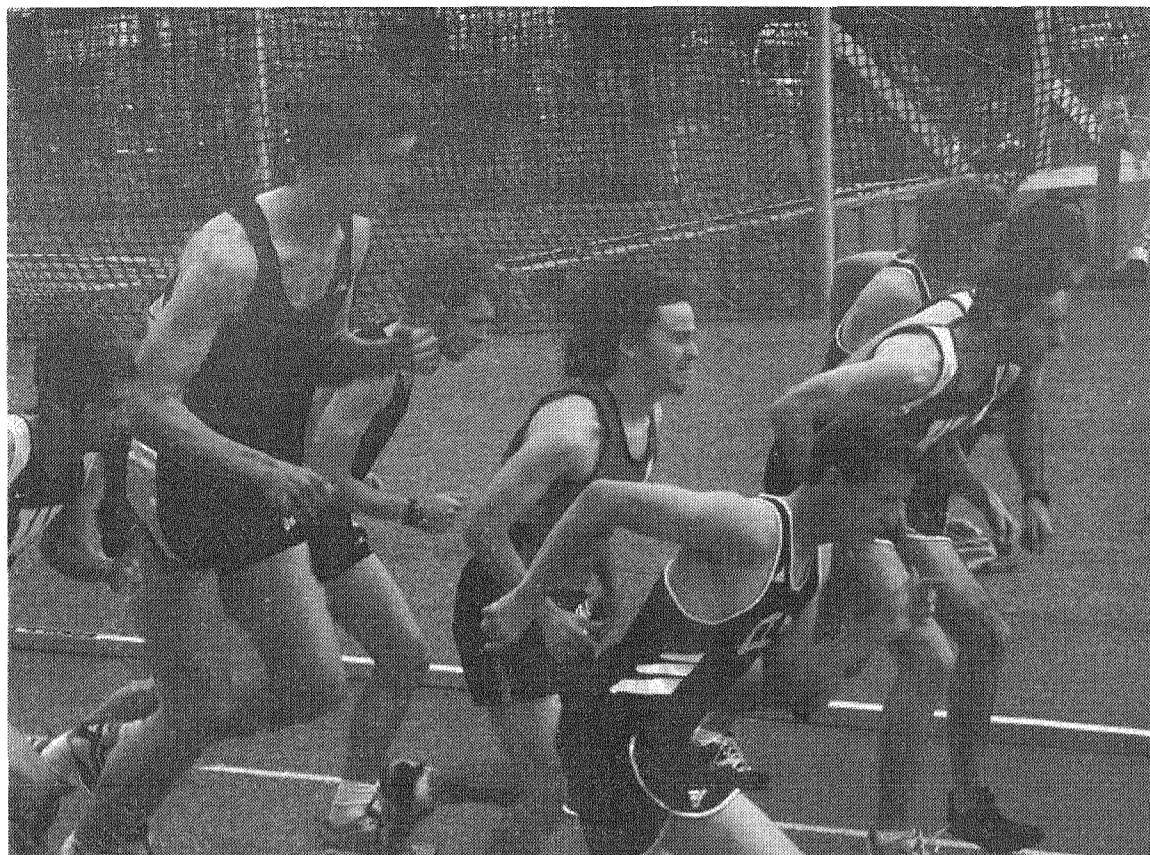
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Mark Eichenlaub's Track Prattle Techers Put the 'Ack' in 'Track'

Sometimes a runner will slip into a state of sports psychologists call "the flow." It's when the transparent wall that separates mind from body in daily life vanishes. The athlete moves in perfectly-coordinated synchrony, going faster, further, higher, and longer than ever before. For the Caltech athletes on the Friday the 17th and Saturday the 18th, the state of flow is almost precisely what didn't happen. Instead, both teams sat around complaining about the weather and making sophomoric, scatological jokes while getting fourth place in the SCIAC "Bottom Four" meets, which I prefer to call the "lower quad" meets because it sounds mildly less degrading. On the plus side, we did beat a few teams, as the honor of running with the Beavers was so great as to attract some non-SCIAC schools to the meet. The men soundly defeated a bunch (a.k.a. smattering, throng, posse, or clique) of Poets; the women a flock of Sagehens.

The action began Thursday with the Northridge Multi-Event meet. Nothing of interest happened there, except possibly that Helen Tai held a school record for approximately 8 seconds. As she finished the 800m, the final event of the heptathlon, Tai broke the school record in the event. Eight seconds later, Rene Davis crossed the line with an even higher point total, setting the standard to something marginally higher. I don't know just what that standard is though. I mean, I can't do all the leg work for you. Zach Higbee also competed, putting the "cat" in "decathlon." If you're not sure what that means, simply consider it an improvement of his more



"Opponents assume tremendous stature. Any runner who denies having fears is a bad athlete, or a liar." – running legend Gordon Pirie, on what it's like to race against Kevin Dick

routine activity of putting the "cat" in "the microwave".

On Friday, six Techers put the "era" in "distance race" at the Oxy Distance carnival. David "Cupcake" Rosen and Gina Gage put the "eep" in "steeplechase" as they cruised through the 3000m event in third and fourth places. Katherine Breeden put the "bella" in "bell lap" as she set a new personal best in the 5000. Ever seeking his inner peace, Bud Coulson put the "om" in "five kilometers" as he ran the event for the first time. Several Caltech grad stu-

dents and alums, parading around in ridiculous attire and declaring themselves a form of citrusy running cult called "The Juice" were also present but shall not be discussed further.

On Saturday, the entire team, minus about half its members, set out for Whittier College to put the "ow" in "Lower Quad meet". The men set the tone for the day by putting the "lay" in "4x100m relay", as they were all laying down in the bleachers as the race was run. The women took second in that event. The highlight of the

day came as Jeremy Leibs puts the "hurt" in "hurdles" (he also put the "spelling error" in there for good measure). Running the hurdles for the first time this year, Leibs, true to his characteristic form, realized he had no time to jump over the hurdles and merely smashed them out of his way instead. Helen Tai took second in the shorter and generally sissier version of the event for women. Kevin Dick put the "dred" in "fifteen hundred" as he broke the 5:00 barrier in the event for the first time. (That is the first time for him personally,

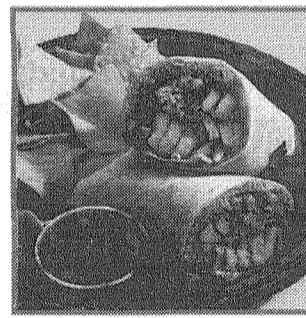
not for all mankind.) Tim Tirrell and Stuart Ward put the "art" in "quarter" as they took first and fourth that sprint. Gage returned to the track to put the "ace" in "race" as she took fifth in the similar, but generally slower version of that event for women. Tencia Lee put the "petite" in "competition" as she won her heat of the 200m. Seth Hendrickson ran well in the 100m, but didn't seem to put and cute words or phrases in it, as far as I could tell.

Our throw squads put the "evil" in "javelin" by not even showing up. Great job guys. I hate you. Jordan Carlson finally decided to stop pretending to be good at basketball and return to his true home, a small dank cage in the basement. Oops, I mean, return to the track. Carlson put the "rip le jump" (French for "do well in the jump") in "triple jump" as he won that event. He also won the high jump and was fifth in the long jump (in which he put the "um", seeming slightly awkward, though obviously successful, in his new event). Eva Murdock certainly did not put the "eva" in "pole vault". In fact I don't even think she showed up. I just wanted to use her name because it's in "pole vault". Natalie Szewda on the other hand was present, and won the event, soundly defeating all zero of her competitors. Her height of 2.90 meters was respectable, but I would have preferred her to jump 3.14 meters, so I could advertise how she put the "pi" in "pole vault pit". I'm just about out of wit for the week, so I'll quickly mention that the men's 4x400m relay team ended the meet with a win, putting the "end" in "this article".

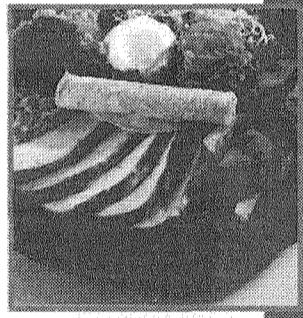
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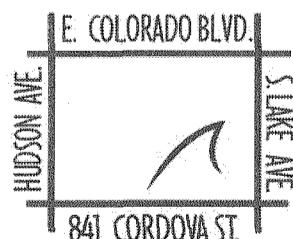
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Caltech Frisbee Team Wins Tournament Not an April Fools' Day Headline!

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

The Caltech Women's Ultimate Frisbee team, Snatch, won the UC-Irvine Invitational on March 25th, showing massive schools like UC-Berkeley and University of Arizona that bigger isn't always better.

"I think I'm still in shock a little bit, but of course, it feels great to win," said team captain Sarah Payne.

The Irvine Invitational is geared toward beginner teams and B teams from large schools. Snatch is in its first year of competing in tournaments, and was joined by teams from UC-Irvine, Long Beach, UC-Berkeley, UC-Chico, and University of Arizona.

Though Snatch's tight zone defense and impressive man offense schooled the rest of the California teams, Snatch players consider their biggest strength something less tangible: their spirit.

"We are really spirited and that is important. It's great that we can play hard and intense, but still with a lot of spirit," said Minh Huynh, a Caltech post-doc and one of Snatch's MVPs.

Carolyn Brinkworth, the Snatch player who broke her collarbone in the UCLA tournament, added that an advantage to standing on the sidelines is "you get to hear what everyone else says about your team."

"In our case it was a series of really proud moments because every single one of the comments I heard was positive," said Carolyn.

Claire Farnsworth, who'd suffered an ankle injury while warming up before one of the games on Saturday, joined Carolyn on the sidelines to cheer on Snatch.

"Carolyn and Claire, although injured and unable to play, kept the sideline talking and aided us to victory with their observations on the sidelines," said Harmony Gates, Snatch player. "They had continuous encouragement and advice."

Snatch first played Longvine, an amalgamation of Irvine and Long Beach. For a team that hadn't played together before, they put up a great fight; however, by half time, the score was 7-1 to Caltech. Sarah Payne and Suzanne Golisz put up consistently great pulls, which forced Longvine to spend most of the game in their own half. Unfortunately, a totally fearless bid for the disk from both sides in the first half led to a nasty collision, with one of the Longvine players heading off to the hospital with a broken ankle. After half-time Snatch switched to a zone defense, forcing Longvine to throw high in the



Photo courtesy of Marissa Cevallos

The Caltech Women's Ultimate Frisbee team, Snatch.
Back row: Claire Farnsworth, Carolyn Brinkworth, Harmony Gates, Laura Fishman, Mary Dunlop, Katherine Poulin
Middle row: Amy McMahon, Michelle Farkas, Tai Carvalho, Minh Huynh, Marissa Cevallos

Front: Sarah Payne, Suzanne Golisz.

wind. It was an effective strategy, supported by some fantastic interceptions from both Katherine Poulin and Suz, and a genius moment from Harmony in the cup to grab her first Callaghan. The final score was 13-2.

Snatch next played a well-matched game against Berkeley, with the lead switching back and forth between the two teams. The game started off badly for Caltech, with Berkeley scoring 2 quick points in succession. However, Caltech rallied and the game took off with a perfect zone play as Caltech stayed calm and collected for a textbook pass from Minh to Harmony in the end zone. The next point was even better, with an absolutely stunning huck from Suz, chased down with an amazing one-handed catch by Katherine. A few unbelievably long and hard-fought points followed, but Caltech kept it together, and by half time Snatch was leading 7-5, with a sideline full of people from other teams watching the game. The second half was equally well-fought, but despite some great points and fantastic handling from Laura

Fishman, Suz and Minh, Berkeley scored 4 in a row to take the game during hard cap. Final score was 9-7 to Berkeley.

Third game was against Chica, with high winds and some extremely tired legs on both sides. The game started off well for Caltech as Snatch went up 2 points early on, with two great passes to Katherine in the end zone. Chica pulled the score back to level with a couple of well-fought points, and were narrowly prevented from taking the lead by two incredible Ds in the end zone by Tai Carvalho and Katherine. Caltech then took the first half by storm, with some stunning defense from Minh, who somehow seemed to be everywhere on the field at the same time, and Sarah, who got a series of great blocks to prevent Chica from making crucial dump passes. Some inspired offensive play gave Snatch a half-time score of 7-2 to Caltech. Chica started the second half with a quick score, but soft cap was called only a few minutes later and two more points from Caltech finished off the game at 9-3.

The first day finished with Caltech seeded 4th, ready for the bracket play on Sun-

day.

Though Snatch players filled up on bagels and bananas before their first match on Sunday, they decided they were still hungry and ate UC-Chico for breakfast in an impressive 10-3 game. Though Snatch played a strong offense, their solid defense is what kept the Chicas far from the end zone. Because it was relatively non-windy, Chica tried for an upfield huck several times, each time neglecting that Snatch's 6'1" team captain Sarah could outjump any of their offense: she intercepted four deep throws, effectively cutting off Chica's best chance of scoring. First year Ultimate players had a chance to shine during the Chica game. Amy McMahon, who joined Snatch at the beginning of second term, played amazingly well for having only learned to throw a frisbee a few months ago, including making several key passes. Marissa Cevallos had an intercept where she got to the disc before the offense did, but her offender's elbow got to her diaphragm at about the same time— Marissa panted on the sidelines for a point before coming back in.

Snatch next played Berkeley, well aware that winning the game meant going to the finals. Caltech took the first two points with catches by Tai and Minh, with consistently great throws from Laura throughout the play. Mary Dunlop had a fabulous block toward the end of the game, effortlessly jumping and stretching out her long arms to catch a high throw, much to the sideline's delight. Though Snatch was up a comfortable 7-3 at halftime, Berkeley kept on forcing Caltech to play hard for a final score of 10-5.

Caltech's winning strength—their spirit and good attitude—was especially critical in the final game against Arizona. It was an extremely tight and hard-fought game, reflected in the occasional pause for rule-clarification during the first half. The match was only barely to Caltech's advantage at the 7-6 halftime, but great plays and a heroic zone defense from an extremely tired team shut out Arizona for a 13-6 win. Katherine had a great lay-out defense that "even got a cheer from the opposition," according to Carolyn. Perhaps the most cinematic play of the match was a long huck from Suz to Minh: the two exchanged glances, and at Suz's nod, Minh sprinted to the end zone to receive not only the disc, but the cheers of the sideline. As a happy ending to an extremely well-fought game, Arizona invited Snatch to a "slack-jawed dance-off," in which two players from each team dance with each other without laughing. Tai became the undefeated champion, with some genius moves that are probably best left to the imagination.

Institutes Duel on the Court

BY: CHANDRA BARNETT

Monday evening, Caltech's women's tennis squad faced our rivals from That Other Institute once again. It had been two long years since their last encounter, in which MIT shut down Caltech 9-0. But time has tempered our tennis team. In spite of rainy weather and the absence of some key players - in particular, 3rd-ranked Kristen Ward - the women put in a strong showing, with this year's match favouring MIT only 6-3.

The match started off with a coup for Caltech, as senior Jenny Hsiao (7-6) and freshman Chen-Yee "Princess" Liaw (9-1) defeated MIT 8-4 in #1 doubles. "We have really good communication", said Jenny of her partner, and she and Chen-Yee employed both their experience in doubles play and their strong individual skill sets to maintain control throughout the set. Caltech's #2 doubles, freshman squad members Anna "Spanky" Hiszpanski and Ellen Hsu, also put in an excellent performance. Anna's aggressive

accurate volleys and great supporting play from Ellen brought the set to an 8-8 tie, but MIT dominated in the tiebreak, with the Caltech pair finishing 3-7. Junior Diana Lin and sophomore Sarah Wadsworth rounded out the doubles play, losing to MIT 1-8.

In singles play, the women's squad also started strong. Playing in heavy rain, #1 singles Chen-Yee won her sets 6-1 and 6-0, and Jenny went 6-1 and 6-1 to take #2 singles. However, freshman Olga Mandelstam, playing #3 singles, fell victim to the bad weather. Battling slick courts and difficult visibility, she lost in two sets, 2-6 and 1-6. #4, #5 and #6 singles (Diana Lin, Ellen, and Anna) also failed to secure victories. In the end, both the weather and the missing players held Caltech back from winning what seemed to be a promising match. "We could have easily won against MIT if we had one more competitive player," Head Coach Mandy Gamble lamented. "We came so close to doing something really special for Caltech and our women's programs."

Recent Results

Baseball:

3/25: Simpson (CA) (Away) Doubleheader: cancelled due to weather

3/28: Pomona-Pitzer (Conference Match) (Home): postponed due to weather

Women's Tennis:

3/12: Skidmore College (NY) (Home): L, 1-8

3/13: Wesleyan Univ. (CT) (Home): L, 0-9

3/18: Univ. of Rochester (NY) (Home): L, 3-6

3/20: Mills College (CA) (Home): W, 7-2

3/22: Salisbury Univ. (MD) (Home): L, 3-6

3/27: MIT (MA) (Home): L, 3-6

3/31: Pomona-Pitzer (Conference Match) (Home): L, 0-9

4/1: Cal Lutheran (Conference Match) (Home): L, 1-5

Men's Tennis:

3/13: Wesleyan Univ. (CT) (Home): L, 0-7

3/18: Univ. of Wisconsin Oshkosh (Home): W, 4-3

3/19: Colorado College (Home): L, 1-6

3/21: Middlebury College (VT) (@CMS): L, 1-6

3/22: Salisbury Univ. (Home): L, 2-5

3/27: Lewis and Clark (OR) (Home): W, 7-0

3/31: Pomona-Pitzer (Conference Match) (Away): L, 1-6

4/1: Univ. of LaVerne (Conference Match) (Away): W, 6-1

Women's Water Polo:

3/11: Macalaster (MN) (Home): W, 7-4

3/18-19: Claremont Tournament:

vs. CSU San Bernardino: L, 1-13

vs. CSU Bakersfield: L, 3-21

vs. CSU Macalaster: L, 3-(twenty-something)

vs. Siena College: L, 4-14

3/21: Univ. of Maryland (Home): L, 1-15

3/21: Washington & Jefferson (PA): L, 2-15

4/1: Univ. of Redlands (Conference Match) (Home): L, 6-14

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 4th

2:30PM - Baseball vs. La Sierra

Friday, April 7th

2:00PM - Men's Tennis vs. Concordia (CA)

4:00PM - Women's Tennis vs. Univ. of LaVerne (Rescheduled)

Saturday, April 8th

9:30AM - Women's Tennis @ Occidental

11:00AM - Women's Water Polo vs. Pomona-Pitzer
2:00PM - Men's Tennis vs. Occidental

Sunday, April 9th

10:30AM - Women's Water Polo vs. Chapman

12:30AM - Women's Water Polo <Chapman vs. Cal Maritime>

1:00PM - Baseball @ Redlands

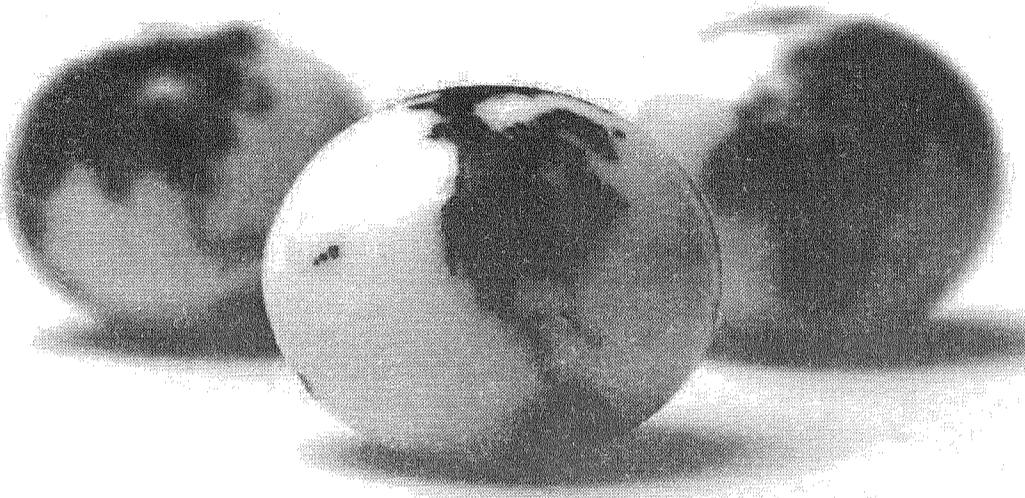
3:00PM - Women's Water Polo vs Cal Maritime

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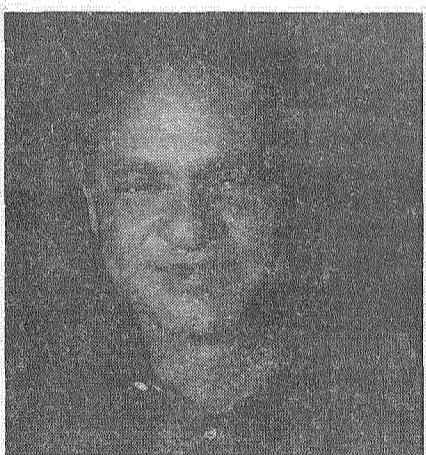
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- Science and Innovation: What Matters Most Now?**

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