

THE CALIFORNIA TECH



tech@caltech.edu

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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 17, 2007

Students Dismayed Despite Renovations Plethora of Issues Add Up to Annoyed Residents

BY: ANDREA DUBIN

See related commentary on
Page 7

As students eagerly moved into the newly renovated south houses, many were disappointed as they realized that construction was not finished. The houses were originally scheduled to reopen at the beginning of the academic year, but the opening had been pushed back a term.

When the students were allowed to move back in on Dec. 15, construction still wasn't finished. Contractors were still putting handles on the gates, tiling the balconies, and finishing the painting. While the contractors worked, students were disrupted by loud noises and hot water outages.

In addition, there have been concerns over theft. "There are rumors that the contractors have been stealing our stuff, which is a serious problem," said Keegan McAllister, a junior living in Blacker house.

"I almost would have rather moved in a term later to have not put up with the constant construction, although I realize not all students feel the same way. Caltech made the choice to have us move into a building that wasn't ready and have us put up with the construction issues rather than look bad by delaying the move-in further. At a minimum, we should not be paying for this time in the houses when major disruptions occur and services such as hot water are intermittently unavailable," said McAllister.

Another large disruption students faced after moving in was the fire alarms going off. Occasionally they would be triggered multiple times a day.

"I realize that these are not all the fault of construction and some are caused by students cooking, but many are caused by the construction. It would seem the detectors are too sensitive or the wrong kind of detector and go off during cook-

ing procedures," said McAllister. "I think it's a serious concern with the little amount of sleep we get being Caltech students that we are interrupted while sleeping. For example one day there was an alarm at 1:45am and another at 6:15am."

According to Tim Chang, the Senior Director of Housing, "some sensors are a little too sensitive and are being adjusted so they are not as easily triggered." In some of the kitchens, smoke detectors were installed instead of heat detectors. "In kitchens it makes sense to have heat detectors instead of smoke detectors. Some students have burnt items in the kitchen, but we are verifying that all of the kitchens are on heat detectors so they won't go off from the smoke," said Chang.

In addition, there are plans to adjust the system so that the fire alarm only goes off in the house where the detector was triggered, unless multiple adjacent sensors are triggered indicating a larger scale fire. This should minimize the inconvenience to students when there is not a need for evacuation. "Since we have a new fire alarm system, we can zone things out. We are working on programming it out right now," said Chang.

Other concerns that arose during the move-in were the lack of things such as bookshelves in the rooms, towel racks in the rooms, white boards, and curtains separating the dining rooms and lounges.

"We should have bookshelves within the next 2 weeks" said Chang, "they could come in as early as next week, but probably the week after next. The whiteboards and towel racks are on order, and we might get people to help install them to make it go quicker. The curtains between the dining rooms and lounges are on order. They shouldn't take too long to make, and as soon as they are made they will be installed. It's costing us over \$9,000 to install the curtains, but we're trying to get to it as fast as we can."

There are also plans to have door stoppers on the bathrooms, switches for the courtyard lights so they can be turned off when not in use, and a way to unplug the drains in Blacker's courtyard. "This will take a little time since we only have 9 maintenance workers in the office, but we'll get to it. Things will be going in after the mods are taken care of. We have a limited personnel and a lot of things to do, but we're trying our best to organize our time," said Chang.

Students have expressed concerns over the fewer amount of stoves in the houses. Fleming in particular only has two stoves in the entire house. When the houses were remodeled, kitchen areas were designated

either kitchens or kitchenettes based on the size of the room. Kitchens were installed with stoves, while kitchenettes only have microwaves due to their smaller size.

According to Chang, some solutions have been proposed, "One of the students in Dabney had the idea of having countertop electrical burners. Our safety office has a couple of guidelines, but if they can be met, I don't have an issue with them. Not having ovens is another issue. Maybe we can get a countertop convection oven, but we'd have to abide by the same guidelines." The guidelines include that they cannot be used near combustible materials or in student rooms, and that they have to sit on a non-combustible pad.

Another major concern students are having is the recent change of the locks on the gates. Previously the gates on the olive walk could be opened using a south master, however last week the locks were replaced with Medeco locks and students were not issued keys.

Access to the south houses is by card swipe only. "Housing initially promised us the gates would be on south master," said Keegan McAllister, "The reason I find this issue the most disturbing is that housing directly contradicted something they told us, and having key access was very important to the students. They never notified us about it, even after the change." According to sophomore Daniel Walter Rowlands, "I don't feel comfortable with the idea of there being a record of when I enter or exit a residence. If I'm unable to get a key to the gate, I'll have to wait for someone to let me in or something, but I am not willing to swipe into a residence—I have always jumped the Avery gate to avoid doing so."

Other student concerns include the possibility of the card swipe system failing in the event of a power outage and the fact that students often have to swipe their card multiple times before it will be accepted.

According to Chang, "Until a month ago, the decision was to have a couple of the gates on south master. The decision was made to switch to card swipe access to protect the students, the students' property, and the institute property. Since south master is so widely available, we don't know who has access to the building, and we were concerned after the recent thefts and burglaries. I don't know who has the time or desire to track students' movements, and I don't think anybody actually does it. We have never needed to in recent memories." Students with special concerns, such as religious concerns, will be issued keys. All other students will only have card swipe access to the houses.

Despite the problems with the move, housing is working hard to help as much as possible. "We have a daily meeting with the contractors at 10am to go over the issues that have come up. We also have a weekly meeting with the project manager to get status updates and several times a day we send emails back and forth to discuss issues," said Chang. "We're trying to do whatever we can to help out. If there are ideas on how to make things bet-



Photo by Matthew Glassman

Fleming frosh Andrew Freddo prepares a weekend meal in a kitchen on the other side of the house in order to use one of two available stoves

Interhouse Photo Spread

Pages 4 and 5

In This Issue

- ASCIT election debates are Friday
- Winnett houses a real recording studio
- Spring career fair approaches on Jan. 24
- Seriously, stop reading these and go stare at the pretty color pictures on Pages 4 and 5

Women's Basketball Team Scores First Ever SCIAC Win



The beavers defeated the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens on Saturday. The team joined SCIAC in 2002. Full story on Page 7.

Professor Engineers Promising Cancer Cure

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

Caltech professor Mark Davis isn't allowed to spill to the press about how effective his new cancer treatment may be until it receives its verdict in clinical trials.

But if you could measure the new drug's potency by Davis' ear-to-ear grin while talking about the preliminary results, it isn't hard to guess that cancer patients might also have a reason to smile if the drug hits the market.

Davis hopes his nanoparticle treatment will deliver drugs to cancer cells while avoiding the side effects of traditional chemotherapy.

The key to the new treatment is size.

"Like in Goldilocks and the Three Bears, you don't want a molecule that's too small: then it will just go through the body unnoticed," said Davis. "But if it's too big, it won't be able to enter the cancer cell."

Davis found the optimal size—

the "sweet spot"—to be 50 nanometers, about five thousand times smaller than a newspaper page's thickness.

At that size, the nanoparticle can slip unnoticed through the cell's membrane, dodging the drug-resistant proteins that seize cancer-fighting molecules and "throw them back out."

"The two major ways that cancer kills people is by distributing the cancer all over the body, and by developing resistances to drugs that haven't even entered the patient yet," said Davis.

Davis thinks his treatment will solve both of these problems that have vexed previous cancer research.

The nanoparticle will circulate through blood vessels in the body, attacking the small tumors that can form from larger ones.

A chemical engineer with a specialty in synthetic materials, Davis

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Caltech Parties Like it's 1987

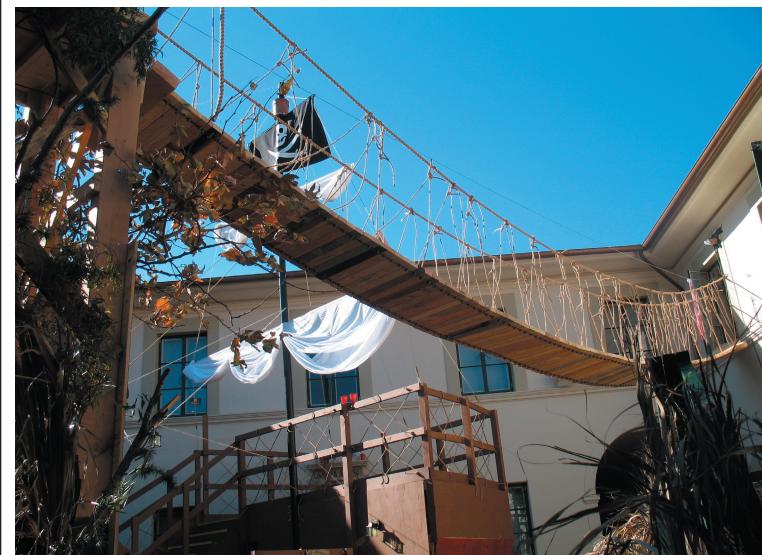


Photo by Kevin Noertker

In celebration of the reopening of the South Houses, Caltech threw the first campus-wide Interhouse party since 1987. Photo spread on Pages 4 and 5.

Caltech Considers Dropping Early Action Admissions

Pages 6 and 2

Size Matters - One More Reason We Should Retain EA

BY: JON SENN

For some background information on Caltech's upcoming decision regarding our Early Action admissions program, see Todd's Paperside Chat, on Page 6 of this issue. The Tech will provide additional reporting on the topic in upcoming issues.

Whenever I explain the student-life at Caltech to individuals unfamiliar with our unique environment, I focus on Caltech's close-knit community and the student freedoms it supports. My audience – if it is remotely acquainted with our reputation – is invariably shocked by the size of our population.

Be they high school students merely aware of our tough admissions standards and top-notch rankings, or members of the scientific community impressed by our immense research output, all are startled that such truly first-class capabilities are held by such a tiny community.

As Todd discusses in his article on Page 6, dropping our early ac-

tion (EA) program will threaten our ability to compete with other institutions, especially MIT, for the brightest high school seniors. While there will surely be at least a handful of potential students we lose who simply don't apply to Caltech after being accepted early to MIT, I feel that the greater threat is more subtle.

For more reasons than I can discuss in such a short article, I believe that Caltech's small size is our greatest asset, and the community it fosters is why I personally chose to attend Caltech. Of course, our limited size entails limited resources, but I feel – as I did as a high school senior – that the advantages far outweigh the liabilities. I fear that if our limited staffing capabilities force us to abandon our EA program, in many cases the first message we send to our potential applicants will be a proclamation of our limited capabilities.

Yes, our inability to properly handle all of our projected early applications is a problem that must be addressed, but there are plenty of solutions short of completely ending our program.

Attracting additional students to serve on the admissions committee is not a problem – we already have more students apply than we have spots on the committee, and if we need even more students, I imagine that a few cheap enticements like extra free pizza would do the trick.

The more pressing issue is a lack of professors to also read each application. While this shortage cannot be easily remedied, does it really need to be? In the absolute worst case we can simply defer two-thirds of the entire EA pool without consideration and simply handle them with regular admissions, leaving those automatically deferred students no worse off than if we had fully rid ourselves of EA. In a less extreme scenario, many of the applications could be determined as definite acceptances or rejections merely from considerations by several students – the abundant student volunteers are themselves certainly qualified to choose which applications are worthy of the addition of professorial attention.

Some may object that my suggestion of mass deferments would

only exacerbate the attention drawn to the weaknesses of our small size. Perhaps this is true.

Nevertheless, I feel that the general idea of preserving a limited EA is superior to a complete retreat from the program. Another middle ground would be a system of rolling replies. That is, our admissions department could handle applications as they arrive, notifying the applicants of decisions as soon as they are made, treating applications as early applications (including making deferrals) until a certain date, after which, those applications which had yet to be decided would only be considered under regular admissions. In this way, the committee could respond to as many early applications as time permits; however, we would lose the convenience for applicants of a specific early application deadline.

Similarly, we could determine in advance the number of early applications we wish to receive – say 1,000 – and designate the first 1,000 applications received before Oct. 15 as early but only accept regular applications after filling

that quota.

While each of these approaches would limit our ability to offer the same degree of service as in the past, those students to whom early application to Caltech is most important will apply the earliest and be able to secure their early applications.

Write for The Tech

If you are interested in working for *The Tech*, feel free to attend our weekly meetings on Mondays and Fridays from noon to 1PM at the Broad Cafe

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

Maximum Pay

News \$25

Features \$20

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Commentary \$20

Humour \$20

Good Comics \$14

Comics \$7

Photos \$5

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Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
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Jonathan Senn
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The Outside World

BY: VIBHA LALJANI

World

Six Men Accused of London Bomb Plot

The prosecution told the Woolwich Crown Court of the alleged suicide bombings on public transport on July 21, 2005, planned by the six men.

Muktar Ibrahim, Manfo Asiedu, Hussein Osman, Yassin Omar, Ramzi Mohammed and Adel Yahya are the accused. They deny conspiracy to murder and conspiracy to cause explosions.

Prosecution said that the men chose a date to execute their plan "just 14 days after the carnage of July 7". However, the court heard that the conspiracy "had been in existence long before the events of July 7" and was not some "hastily arranged copycat."

The prosecutor told that six bombs were made using liquid hydrogen peroxide, chapatti flour, acetone and acid. He also has evidence that the alleged bombers had bought the necessary material in late April.

The court case is expected to last about four months.

Dreamgirls gets two Globes

The movie *Dreamgirls* bagged two early Golden Globe awards

on Monday, Jan. 15, 2007. One award was for veteran comedian Eddie Murphy and the other for Jennifer Hudson, a new comer.

The movie is based off the Broadway stage show that was loosely based on the ascent of Diana Ross and The Supremes.

Other awards were given to:

Grey's Anatomy for best TV drama

Sachon Baron Cohen for best actor for *Borat*

Meryl Streep for best actress in a comedy or musical for *The Devil Wears Prada*

Science and Technology

First US Uterus Transplant Planned

Scientists are planning the first transplant of a woman's uterus in the US.

A team led by Dr. Giuseppe Del Priore of New York Downtown Hospital hopes to help many women fulfill the desire of restoring their ability to have children after their own wombs are damaged beyond repair by cancer, accidents or other reasons.

Many doctors and research scientists have raised concerns about possible risks to the women and future fetus. They think the uterine transplant procedure requires more testing on animals before it can be tried on humans.

While this is the first attempt

in the US, in 2002, Saudi Arabian doctors transplanted the womb of a 46-year old woman to a 26-year old.

Japan's First Moon Mission Scrapped

Japan's space agency has recommended canceling its first moon mission after more than a decade of delays.

The hope was that the Lunar A probe would plant two seismic sensors on the moon surface to gather more information about its origins. However, the development of the penetrator probes took so long that the mother ship, which was built a decade ago, requires a lot of costly repairs.

The mission would have been Japan's first to the moon's surface. It was originally scheduled for launch in 1995. Even though Japan is not going to execute the mission, it will finish the development of the penetrator probes and offer the technology to other space programs including Russia, said a spokeswoman for the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency – JAXA.

Sports

Beckham Discarded from Real Madrid

Fabio Capello, the coach of Real Madrid, said that it was a

joint decision to discard David Beckham for the rest of the season after he decided to join the Los Angeles Galaxy. The joint decision was made by the coach, his assistance Franco Baldini and sporting director Predrag Mijatovic.

Beckham refused a contract extension at Real and announced his new deal on Thursday. Beckham agreed to a \$250 million, five-year contract with the Los Angeles Galaxy. Thus, he will be coming to the US at the end of the season. However, he will still train with the squad and not play for his last six months in Spain.

Business

AOL Buys Online Ad Broker for \$900 million

On Monday, Jan. 15, America On-Line (AOL) agreed to buy a Swedish company that matches Internet advertisers with online media owners and e-commerce sites. In buying this company, TradeDoubler AOL tries to attain a bigger share of the global market in Internet advertising.

This purchase is AOL's first major acquisition after Randy Falco became the chief executive in November.

Compiled from BBC, Yahoo News, New York Times, The Washington Post.

previous Faculty Board Meeting, Caltech's Early Action program was discussed. The admissions committee suggested that the program be abandoned largely due to the difficulty Caltech's admissions office would have dealing with the projected influx of early applications that would result for Harvard and Princeton's decision to no longer offer early programs. Todd shared his concerns that this might not be wise since we would quite possibly be losing many good students by dropping EA. The issue has not been completely decided and Todd felt an open discussion in the Tech about the issue might be beneficial.

See you at Interhouse!

Vickie Pon
AS CIT Secretary

at past meetings. Sam, however, has received her salary and will be given a bonus. The Big T might be given minimal bonuses.

* Todd noted that we don't actually know how each organization pays out their salaries and bonuses. That is, do only managers receive a salary or bonus, or do all staff members receive bonuses?

* Gonzo suggested discussing the bonuses over email since we didn't have a copy of the current budget in hand. The BoD agreed, and further discussion was saved for after this meeting.

3. Elections Chair

* Todd proposed a vote to appoint Chris Klein as Elections Chair for 2007, especially since he's already agreed to do it, and his name is on the Prez and VP sign-ups. Vote: Chris Klein was appointed as the 2007 Elections Chair (6Y,0N,2A).

5. Faculty Board Meeting

* Todd reported that at the

Announcements

Amgen Scholars Undergrad Research Program Launches at Caltech

BY: CAROLYN ASH

Director, Student-Faculty Programs

The Student-Faculty Programs office is delighted to announce the new Amgen Scholars program that will allow students to do undergraduate research projects in the biological sciences (and related subfields) and chemistry. See the web site at amgenscholars.caltech.edu for information. Deadline for applications is Feb. 15.

This program, modeled on SURF, provides funding for 25 students who will be rising juniors, seniors, or non-graduating seniors to do individual research projects under the guidance of Caltech faculty. Half of the participants will be Caltech, half non-Caltech students.

Students will receive a stipend of \$5,500, plus a housing allowance of \$1,500 if they live in Caltech housing, and a food allowance of \$1,200. Mentors will not be asked to contribute to the stipend.

Amgen Scholars are invited to participate in all the summer activities coordinated by the Student-Faculty Programs office and the SURF Student Advisory Council. In addition, they will meet together weekly for special programs and will attend a symposium in July at Lake Tahoe.

Eligible students must have a GPA of 3.2, be US citizens or Permanent Residents, be rising juniors or seniors during the summer, and not be under disciplinary sanction. For further information, please contact the Student-Faculty Programs office at ext. 2885 or email amgenscholars@caltech.edu.

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Shadow Grades Proposed for First-Term Freshmen

BY: CALEB NG

The Academic Policies Committee recently recommended to the Academic and Research Committee (ARC) and the Dean's Office that new undergraduates receive shadow grades during the first term of the freshman year in addition to the second term. Shadow grades indicate the grade that would have been earned but for pass-fail. The current policy is a pass-fail first term without shadow grades and a pass-fail second term with shadow grades.

The pros of the proposed policy include the fact that first-term freshmen would be better equipped to gauge their relative performance and adjust their effort accordingly.

Some of the cons of the proposed policy include a fear that shadow grades would induce unnecessary competition and pressure for first-term freshmen.

The ARC, in collaboration with the Dean's Office and the California Tech, would like to invite undergraduates to write letters-to-the-editor to express their opinions. Please send well thought-out opinions to tech@caltech.edu. The editors of *The Tech* will select letters to be featured in the next few editions. Further discussion will continue on a Donut newsgroup (see donut.caltech.edu/newsgroups/ to subscribe).

The Academics and Research Committee is also preparing for the Student-Faculty Conference (SFC), which is scheduled for April 5, 2007. The SFC will feature presentations from each of fourteen committees covering each option as well as other aspects of undergraduate life, including student morale, core curriculum, and honor code. Students may contact any committee member (listed on the ARC SFC website at donut.caltech.edu/~arc/sfc.html) to provide feedback on any of these topics.

Traditionally, there are no classes held on the date of the SFC.

For more information, students can contact their ARC Rep, ARC Chair Caleb Ng (calebeng@caltech.edu), or visit the ARC website (donut.caltech.edu/~arc).

ASCIT Pres and VP Candidate Debates

Sign ups are now posted on the ASCIT bulletin board on the Olive Walk. *The Tech* will moderate a debate between the candidates on Friday, from noon to one, outside of Winnett.

Candidates should send statements of approximately 400 words, along with a photo, to tech@caltech.edu, by Friday at 11:59pm. The elections will be held on Jan. 22.

Glee Clubs Seek New Members

The Caltech Glee Clubs announce openings for new members this January. Come join this 75-member choral group consisting of undergraduates, grad students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

All members of the Caltech community are welcome to join. There is no audition required, and singing experience is not necessary.

This May, the Glee Clubs will be presenting an all opera choruses program, featuring works from Carmen, La Traviata, Die Fledermaus, and more. Rehearsals are Monday nights (women: 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. and men: 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.) and Wednesdays (men & women combined: 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.) in Beckman Auditorium. For more information, contact director Desiree LaVertu at dlavertu@caltech.edu.

Alumni Association Seeks Nominations for Honorary Alumni

therefore, contributed significantly to establishing or upholding Caltech as an institute of high esteem around the world. Past recipients include, for example, Nobel Laureate Robert Millikan, who, after being attracted to Caltech by George Hale, flourished in the then obscure institute. In 1947, he became an honorary member largely due to his national visibility, which allowed Caltech to enter the top rank of the world's research centers, almost overnight. Millikan soon became famous, even to the laymen of physics, as a spokesman for science and education and a money-raiser for Caltech.

Other honorary members include such visible faculty members as Dr. Tom Apostol (2001) and Dr. David Goodstein (2003). A current student favorite, Tom Mannion, was also recognized as an honorary member in 2003.

This year's honorary members will be revealed in February or March. The nominations are due by Jan. 26. If you know a candidate deserving of an honorary membership, you may submit a nomination form at alumni.caltech.edu/about/haar/form.

Many past recipients have,

With Nanoparticle Treatment, Size Matters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

devoted the last 12 years of his work to cancer research when his then 36 year-old wife was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1995.

"They did very aggressive chemotherapy, but she lost all of her hair and couldn't eat for 2 months," said Davis.

"I thought there must be another way, but I didn't think I could do anything since there were already so many other people doing cancer

research."

Luckily, Davis's wife didn't think that was a good enough excuse.

Davis hit the library, and within two years, had started a group at Caltech to work on the problem.

"We could have done a 'bandage approach,' which is to do a fix-up for the problem. But we didn't want to do that. We wanted to sit down, ask 'What do we really want?' and make that material," said Davis.

According to Davis, it's a "smart

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Snooze Your Way to Success: How to Improve Your Sleep Habits and Identify Possible Sleep Disorders

When: Monday, January 22nd, Noon - 1:00

Where: Caltech Y Conference Room

Fatigued? Pulling a lot of all-nighters? Is your sleep cycle out of phase and you don't know how to fix it? Interested in optimizing your sleep habits? The set your alarms for Monday, January 22nd from noon to 1:00 and come to the Caltech Y!

Tim Cunningham, lead technician at the Huntington Hospital sleep disorder center, will talk about how to identify potential problems with your sleeping habits, and how you can also identify possible sleep problems in your friends and roommates.

Work, Sleep, Play - Finding Balance Lecture Series. Sponsored by the Counseling Center

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Blacker and Avery: THE COMMUNIST PARTY



These party-goers on Blacker's submarine (see below) won't let a little nuclear spill get them down

Photo courtesy of Oren Hazi



This Soviet submarine filled the middle of the Blacker courtyard, and was surrounded by a green pond of "nuclear waste"

Photo courtesy of Oren Hazi

The Exchange

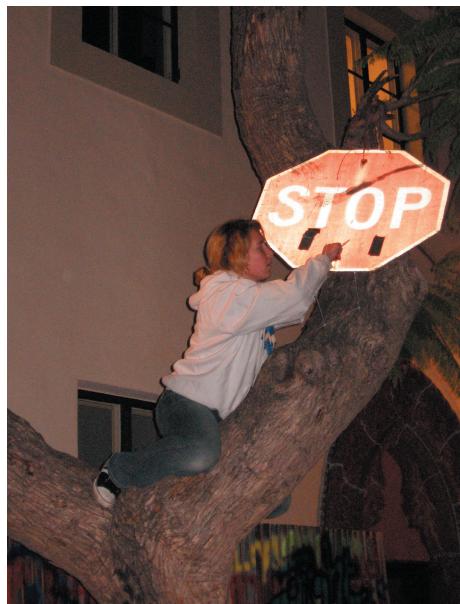
People grasping
Cocktail glasses
Stand in gasping
Teeming masses.
People smoking,
People drinking,
Coughing, choking,
Getting stinking.
Some discreetly
Boiled or fried;
Some completely
Ossified.
Liquor spilling,
Trousers sopping,
Steady swilling,
Bodies dropping.
Glasses falling
On the floor
People calling
"Drop some more."
Bodies steaming
Morals stretching
Women screaming
Freshmen retching.
Heavy smoking
Air gets thicker.
Someone croaking
"No more liquor?"
What? What???

No
more
liquor...
People snicker,
Unbelieving
No more liquor?
Let's be leaving.
No more drinking?
Groans and hisses!
What a stinking
Party this is.

-1949 Hot Throbbing
Rivet
From the 5 Nov 1970
Tech



Graffiti art underneath the catwalk bordering the Ricketts party



Natalya Kostandova affixes a STOP sign on a tree in the Ricketts courtyard

Blacker's "Nuclear Waste" Attracts HAZMAT Team



Photo by Mike Comstok

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

Blacker's "nuclear waste" attracts HAZMAT team When Blacker students flooded their courtyard with fluorescent green tinted water around its giant Russian submarine at Saturday's Interhouse party, they hoped party-goers might get a kick out of the hazardous-looking water.

Apparently the city of Pasadena shared in the joke when a HAZMAT team and eight firetrucks were called to Caltech the next morning to respond to a bright green fluid leaking onto California Blvd.

A helicopter flying over Caltech on Sunday morning had spotted the fluorescent green car-sized puddle and, fearing a leak of anti-freeze, alerted city officials.

Blacker students had punctured the plastic lining its courtyard after Saturday night's party, allowing the water to slowly empty into a drain.



Photo courtesy of Oren Hazi

Russell Newman enjoys the light snow under Blacker's snow machine

Ricketts and Lloyd: POST-APOCALYPTIC



Graffiti art underneath the catwalk bordering the Ricketts party



Photo courtesy of Tom Gwinn

Chi-wan Ko gets down next to Vivek in the Ricketts courtyard



Photo courtesy of Katie Shakman

Scurves scurry to complete preparations just hours before the apocalypse

"After the HAZMAT guys got there, I plugged up the hole in the plastic as well as I could," said Drew Heltsley, a junior in Blacker who helped organize and build Blacker's Interhouse.

"But the patch only slowed the flow, so we did not have the option of storing the green water until a better solution could be found."

Pete Haderlein, a junior in Blacker involved with the construction, was woken at 9:30 by his RA to answer questions from a physical team and a HAZMAT team.

He handed over the container with the remainder of the powdered dye that had been sprinkled in teaspoons over the water.

"We told them it was non-toxic," said Haderlein, and after the HAZMAT team inspected the dye container with an "EPA approved" label, they came to the same conclusion.

But Blacker had just become snared in a ten thousand dollar bureaucratic tangle.

Said Haderlein. "The issue was, first, we didn't have a permit to dump the stuff into the storm drains, and second, the city hadn't determined whether the compound was also non-toxic to marine life."

Throughout the day, the water was pumped from Blacker's courtyard and from California Blvd. to be stored in a large truck until after the holiday weekend.

"We were stuck—on one hand, we knew it wasn't dangerous, but by the same token, we couldn't dispose of it ourselves."

Estimates for the pumping and storage aren't certain, but according to Blacker junior Drew Heltsley, "Someone threw out the \$10,000 figure from early on, before anything was actually cleaned up."

But most members of Blacker House are looking on the bright side of this fiasco.

Said Haderlein, "If anyone asks how good the party was, it was eight firetrucks and a HAZMAT team good."

Dabney and Page: Speak-Easy



Daline Thrift-Veveros, senior, sings in the band at Dabney's Speakeasy



Ashley Potts watches a fellow Darb put the finishing touches on the walls of the Speakeasy

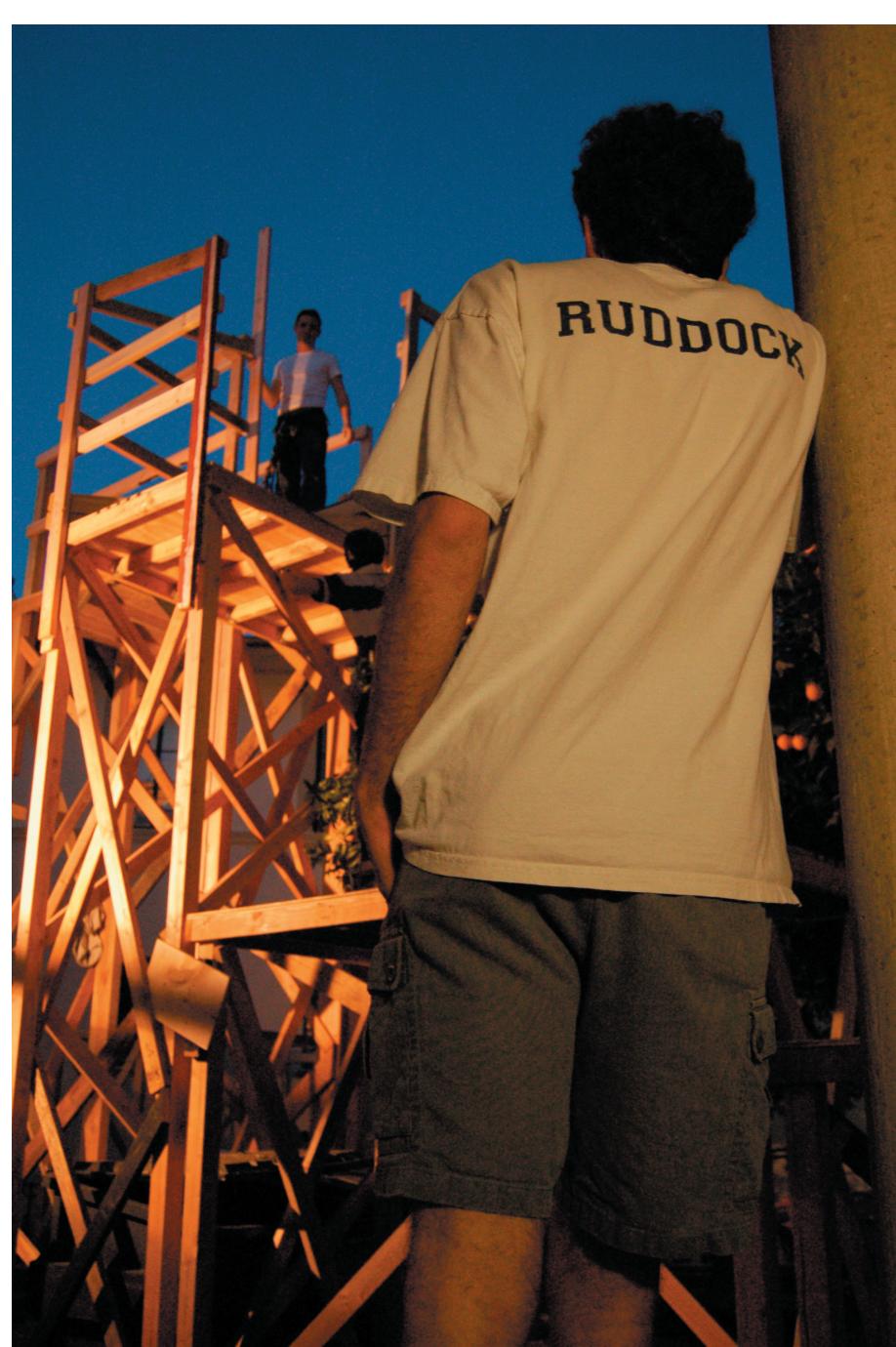


Alex Alemi and Jeremy Erhardt arrange the furniture for Dabney's lounge

Fleming and Ruddock: Never Never Land



Dvin looks over the Fleming and Ruddock construction



Dvin looks over the Fleming and Ruddock construction

Todd's Paperside Chat

Caltech Considers Ending Early Action Admissions

BY: TODD GINGRICH

There have been some recent discussions among administrators, the admissions committee, and most recently the faculty board about potentially ending Caltech's early action admission program. I feel quite strongly that this discussion should be extended to include more current students. It seems to me that current students have a pretty good idea of how the early admissions programs actually work and how they affect or decisions. More importantly, we're the ones who have to live most closely with the new students, so we have a vested interest in preserving the caliber of Caltech students.

Considerations about altering

Caltech's early action program began after Princeton and Harvard abandoned their early programs early in the fall. Their reasons for abandoning their programs were to promote more egalitarian admissions. Both schools had early admission programs that prevented students from applying to more than one school early. There was concern that students who were heavily dependent on a financial aid packages could not afford to put all of their eggs in one basket and were therefore precluded from applying into these early programs.

Caltech's decision to abandon early action would be for entirely different reasons. Our early action program allows students to apply early to as many programs as they like, so the financial consider-

ations are not a problem. Rather, the admissions office warns that we should expect a large influx of new early applications since the students who previously applied early to Harvard or Princeton (~7,500 students total) would now be free to apply to Caltech early. A surge in early applications would place a lot of strain on our current admissions process since professors and students typically read admissions files. Right now only about half of the files from early applicants are being read by professors and students because there are too many applications and not enough professors with sufficient time to read applications. The fear is that with a surge in early applications only about a third of the files could actually be read by professors and students.

By moving to only a single admissions deadline, professors and students would have much longer to read all the applications.

The obvious downside of eliminating early action is that Caltech could be losing a competitive advantage over some of our peer institutions. This could potentially harm Caltech's ability to get some of the top students. MIT is our biggest competitor, yet they are not altering their early admissions program. Right now only about 10% of the students admitted to both Caltech and MIT matriculate at Caltech, but by ending early action at Caltech I fear that number could drop even more. I am personally concerned that we will be losing a competitive edge if we do away with early action, but it is difficult to actually quantify this potential loss.

The admissions committee and faculty board were both slightly in favor of ending the early action program, but a final decision by the administration has not yet been made. I have shared some of my opinions with the faculty and administrators, but I don't really know how the students as a whole feel on this issue, and I am hesitant to use my personal opinions as a good gauge for the more widespread feelings. Thus if you are particularly interested in this issue, I encourage you to write a letter to the Tech or talk to me about ways that you can convey your opinion directly to the administration.

The Tech will print comments sent to tech@caltech.edu in the upcoming issues.

Performing Arts of the Month



Photo courtesy of William Bing

The Caltech Recording Studio features a control booth with a window into the recording area.

Caltech's Recording Studio

BY: WILLIAM BING

This is the first of a series of articles describing the creative and performing music opportunities at Caltech. This article describes Caltech's recording studio that is available to students. Budding singers looking for a convenient location to record their debut album need look no further than Winnett, the home of Caltech's recording studio.

Students naturally wonder how Caltech obtained a recording studio. William Bing, Caltech's Director of Bands since 1970, explains, "Many years ago, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of my work here at Caltech, a brilliant faculty member who happened to be provost at that time donated money to be used as I would like to use it."

"Well, of course, a trip to Hawaii did occur to me, but then I got real. So, I gathered some students and asked them what the school needed. A recording studio was mentioned--by me, of course--and that's where the money went."

"We bought a digital board, ADAT recorders, top quality mics, cables, monitor speakers, and even a couple of nice chairs on wheels for the sound engineer and his assistant. A location in the SAC basement was secured for our purposes, and off we went in the grammilynescent landscape."

The recording studio used to be in the scenic SAC basement. Flash ahead to the present, and it's now located in a fantastic location in Winnett Student Center. The old ADAT tape machines have long been replaced by hard disc recorders and ProTools. Newer mics have also been added to the collection. The new space also features a control booth complete with a window that overlooks the main recording area. "I know from experience, that if the musicians have a nice environment to record, that they will play better," said Bing.

William Bing thanks everyone who made this recording studio possible, especially those in Student Affairs.

Students interested in learning more about the Caltech Recording Studio, and how to reserve a time slot, can contact William

Bing at wbing@caltech.edu. William Bing is also the faculty advisor for this facility.

One thing that Mr. Bing asks students to remember is that this is not supposed to be a rehearsal space but a recording facility. Said Bing, "Don't email me asking for space to rehearse your band. But if you want to record, this is the place!" Students can learn more about the studio by visiting <http://studio.caltech.edu>, although the site is not quite up to date.

Upcoming concerts: The Caltech Jazz Bands, directed by William Bing, present their annual free winter concert on Friday, January 19 at 8 PM in Beckman Auditorium on the Caltech Campus. The concert will feature the great saxophonist Sal Lozano. Sal can be seen playing on "American Idol" and "Dancing with the Stars."



Photo courtesy of William Bing

The recording studio features various instruments.

Career Corner

Preparing the Resume

**BY: JONIE WATANABE TSUJI
CAREER COUNSELOR**

Career Fair
January 24, 2007
Brown Gym
10:30am to 2:30pm

but most of the time it is possible. Of course, include all education and work experience, but emphasize only relevant experience, skills, accomplishments, activities and hobbies. Do not include marital status, age, sex, children, height, weight, health, religious membership, etc.

7. OBVIOUSLY GENERIC. Too many resumes scream, "I need a job - any job!" The employer needs to feel that you are interested in THEIR position with THEIR company. It is possible to change descriptions, order of information, cover letter, etc. to become targeted for each company.

8. TOO SNAZZY. Of course, use good quality bond paper, but avoid exotic typeface, colored paper, photographs, binders and graphics. Companies often scan resumes, so use white paper, black ink, plain type, and avoid symbols, underlining or italics. See the CDC handout on electronic resumes used in application pages on the Web.

9. BORING. Make your resume as dynamic as possible. Begin every statement with an action verb. Then describe what you accomplished on the job. If possible, mention the RESULTS you obtained (reduced time, more volume, percentages, etc.). Don't write what someone else told you to do; write what you did. Avoid repeating words, especially the first word in a section. Choose the skill words at the beginning of the description that relate to the job being applied for.

10. TOO MODEST. Never misrepresent, falsify, or over-state (babysitting is not domestic parental engineering), but be confident in listing skills and experiences that relate to the employer's needs.

Students may visit the Career Development Center Website for sample resumes, suggestions and templates. Students can upload their resumes to MonsterTRAK, also on the CDC website, where companies can access resumes for job openings.

South Hovses in Lockdown?

BY: CHANDRA BARNETT

See related news coverage on front page

What would you do if your landlord decided, without debate, to lock every entrance to your home using a system which would consistently record your identity, location, and the time you came in? Posted guards outside of your residence when you tried to circumvent this system? What about if he came into your home, removed your personal belongings, and then sent you an email telling you to come over and retrieve the things which, in the name of safe-keeping, he had abstracted from the house he had already turned into Fort Knox?

If you are like most sane renters, you would move. In light of the constant monitoring of your whereabouts and molestation of your personal belongings, you might even file a police report. Although a reasonable degree of concern for one's tenants' personal safety and security is commendable, it ought to be clear to the casual observer that the above measures are far outside the bounds of reason. However, this is precisely what has been done to the hundreds of South Hovse residents who have completed their move home this week.

When we left the South Hovses in June of 2005, we had a system we were comfortable with: our rooms were equipped with locks, and if we wanted to keep something safe from prying eyes or sticky fingers, we used them. But the common areas of our house were just that: places where we could interact with our housemates, but also meet our friends, without worrying that they would be trapped out in the cold at 3am by an overzealous security system.

We enjoyed the freedom to come and go, without having to circle the house on a hot day or a chilly night looking for a door which had not been magnetically locked, chained shut, or even

physically screwed to its frame. We even enjoyed the drop-in visitors who came in from time to time, be they area couples walking their dogs, or alumni and professors who felt like paying a visit to see how we are getting on. And should we have things we didn't want such casual happeners-by to get involved with, we had our rooms – the very definition of private space.

In the 18 months since we were relocated from our home, however, something has caused a massive shift in the Housing office's ideas about what we expect in the way of security and privacy. The new South Hovses are effectively on lockdown, and it has produced, and will continue to produce, a dramatic shift in the way we are able to use our common space. (More baffling still, the locks on our bedroom doors, the ones we actually used, have been altered as well, this time removing the traditional latching doorknob in favour of some force-fit contraption. We now may choose whether to punch in a combination each and every time we come back from the restroom, or allow our door to fly open at the slightest accidental bump from outside.)

To Housing, therefore, I address this question: what on God's green earth made you decide that any of this made sense? Yes, under the old system, belongings occasionally grew legs and walked away. Yours truly recently lost a nearly-new laptop from a common area, and yours truly feels awfully silly for having left it there – not resentful towards Housing, or annoyed that that common area wasn't wrapped in heavy chains to avoid such an occurrence.

Yes, under the old system we occasionally had unsavory individuals come in and help themselves to our groceries and our *ahem* sanitation equipment. However, it so happens that there are some people who live in the South Hovses, so when

food gets to disappearing and waste gets to appearing, folks get to placing a little extra scrutiny on their surroundings for a while, and directing our capable Campus Security force towards the root of the problem. And, as some administrator has been rumoured to have pointed out, "whatever should a defenseless woman do if she should find some man hiding in the bathroom at 4 in the morning?" What she should do, if she's really that defenseless (and believe you me, few of us are) is scream like a banshee, and allow the 10 other people living within 20 yards of that bathroom to spring to her rescue. That putative man will learn right quick not to hide in any more bathrooms.

The point being made here is this: the Hovse system works so well because we are a community. This is not a dormitory or an apartment building, and the people we live with are not nameless faceless passers-on-the-stairs. We care about each other, and we care FOR each other, and the last 80 years of South Hovse living ought to have been enough to prove to anyone that we can take care of our safety and belongings, even without card-swipe access and 24-hour guards.

By ignoring this valuable feature of our community, you are not only inconveniencing all of us and yourselves; you are encouraging this ability to atrophy and die. This is yet another instance in which administrative indifference towards our unique culture is doing real damage to the trust we have placed in each other for decades. Please, listen to what all of us have been trying to tell you: it wasn't broke. Kindly quit trying to fix it.

Woman's BBall Wins First SCIAC Game Ever, 55-53

Photo by Bob Paze



Coach Marbut Expresses Her Elation with Victory

From the Caltech athletics department, athletics.caltech.edu

History was made tonight before a capacity crowd in Caltech's Braun Gymnasium when the Caltech Women's Basketball team won for the first time ever in conference (SCIAC) play upending the visiting Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens by a score of 55-53.

Just one week after the Caltech Men broke their 207 game losing streak, the Caltech women hoopsters found themselves in a familiar setting, trailing the Sagehens at the half by a score of 22-28. The second half would yield a different and exciting result.

Leading the way in scoring for the Caltech women were

junior guard/forward Rene Davis with 18 points, freshman guard Lisa Yee and junior guard /forward Lindsey King with 11 and 10 points respectively.

Tonight's victory is the first ever against both an NCAA Division III and SCIAC opponent. Caltech began playing women's basketball in 1995 as an Independent until joining the SCIAC as a varsity team in 2002.

Caltech is coached by Sandra Marbut who is in her fourth year at the helm of the program and while making steady progress was elated with the milestone victory over Pomona-Pitzer.

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Puzzle courtesy of www.websudoku.com

CALTECH JAZZ BANDS IN CONCERT DIRECTED BY WILLIAM BING



Guest Artist:
Sal Lozano,
woodwinds

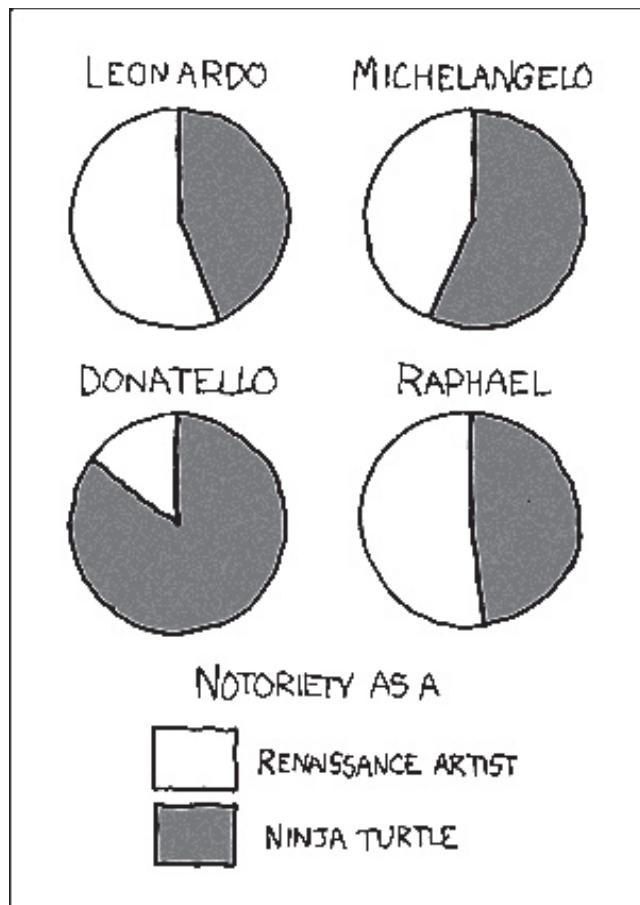
FRIDAY JANUARY 19, 2007
8:00PM
BECKMAN AUDITORIUM
CALTECH CAMPUS

Music by Gordon Goodwin,
Tim Price, George Stone, Tim
Hagens, David
Eshelman, and Tom Kubis

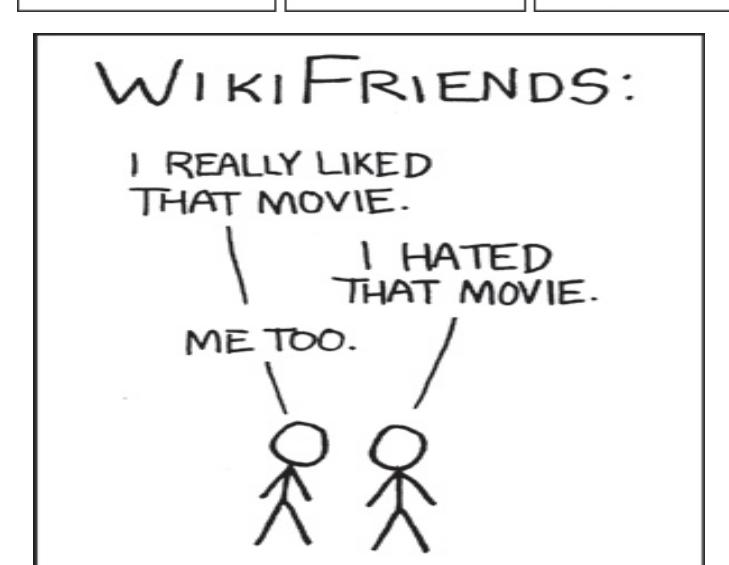
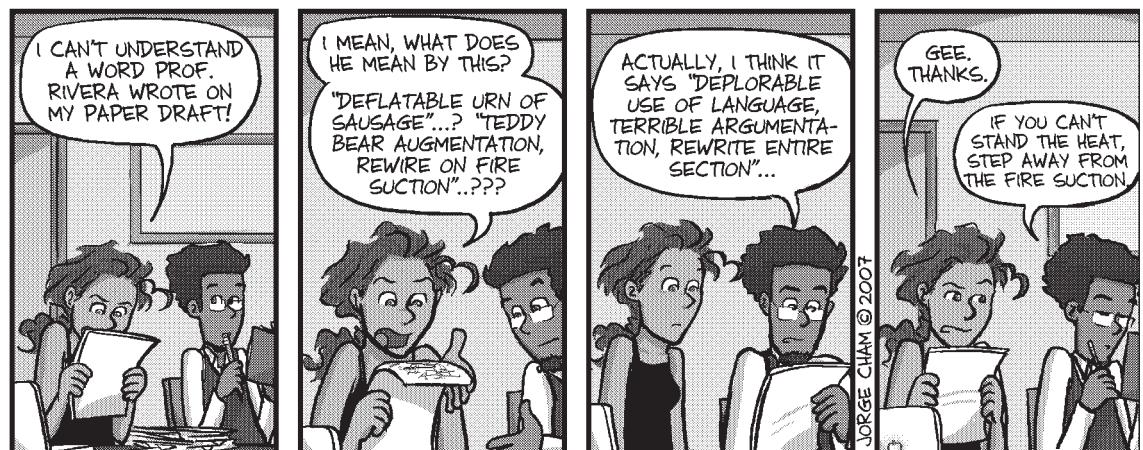
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For more information, call 626-395-4652
or visit <http://events.caltech.edu/>

XKCD Comics by Randall Munroe



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