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Fleming flag found between Firestone and Guggenheim

Culprit, location of Page portrait unknown

By Tina Ding

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

At 8:30am on Wednesday February 2nd, ex-President Alex Lapides received a call from ASCIT treasurer Chris Hallacy bearing good news: the missing Fleming flag has been found suspended on an extension cord between Firestone and Guggenheim. The flag, which has been missing for almost three weeks, was brought back to Fleming by Hallacy and Laura Conwill. The pranksters or culprit of the deed are still unknown.

The disappearance of the flag, followed by that of the portrait of James R. Page resembled pranking initiatives, but was not followed by any note or correspondence with Tom Mannion, a required procedure according to the pranking rules and guidelines. In light of the missing House artifacts, IHC sent out an email to the undergraduate community five days ago highlighting the rules of pranking, noting that "violat-

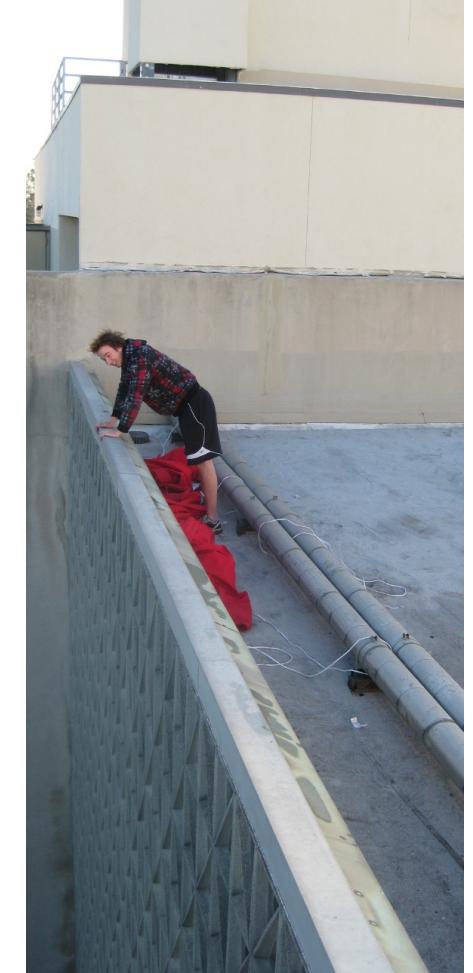
ing pranking rules is considered a violation of the Honor Code."

On top of the acts of not abiding to pranking rules, the pranksters disobeyed the Prank Primer document found on ihc.caltech.edu/documents/pranks.html by taking an item from the non-RFable list. The list contains five non-RFable items, or "items that may not be pranked by anyone under any circumstances": the Blacker dining hall tapestry, the Fleming House Bell, Fleming Cannon, Wall-sized Fleming flag, and the Lloyd House Portrait.

The Flag is now in the possession of current Fleming president Dan Sexton. Sexton plans to hang up the flag in the Fleming dining hall this Monday.

According to Lapides, if there's any word on the suspect of the prank/crime, there will be investigations. But with the return of the flag, there is less incentive to find the culprit.

"But would I like to know who did it?" said Lapides, "absolutely."



At left, the Fleming flag as it was found between Firestone and Guggenheim. At right, Hallacy next to flag. Photos taken by Laura Conwill.

Course capturing efforts deemed successful at latest faculty meeting

By Sandhya Chandrasekar

STAFF WRITER

Recently, the discussion about course capturing and online availability was brought up the faculty board meeting held on January 10, 2011.

A relatively new committee, called the Ad Hoc Committee on Educational Technology, was formed to look into new computer technologies for classrooms. Originally suggested by the Computing Advisory Committee Chair, Professor K. Mani Chandy, AdHoc is a joint effort between the CAC and the Council for Undergraduate Education (CUE). According to their report, course capturing was generally recommended.

Currently, Caltech employs three different methods by which to record course lectures: New Media Classroom, run by IMSS, student-recorded lectures (which pays students at an hourly rate), and portable automated systems such the one used to

record Professor Shuki Bruck's IST4 course. All of the recorded lectures are available on the "Classes" website to allow easy access for interested students. Expanding these recordings to capturing students' questions is an idea being discussed.

Faculty members who participated in such recorded lectures generally had positive

Faculty members who participated in such recorded lectures generally had positive reviews.

reviews. While they recognized that technological glitches are present, they appreciate the availability and believe that even students who regularly attend lectures benefit from this effort.

ARC Chair Karthik Sarma surveyed students who utilized these recordings in order to gauge general interest. He collected the following data:

On average, students watched

about 37% of what was available for a certain course.

60% of students claimed that their attendance was not affected by the online availability of these videos, while 22% said that their attendance was.

23% of the surveyed students reported using the videos when unable to attend class on a particular day.

47% of students used the videos primarily as reviews for exams.

Despite the overall positive feedback, there are still some issues that need to be sorted out. Faculty voiced concerns about the quality of student-recorded lectures; in fact, the very idea of whether or not students recording a course that they were currently taking was also questioned. Also, while faculty are required to sign a waiver, should students be required to do so as well to avert potential privacy issues? Futures meetings will be necessary before course capturing can be permanently and wholly established at Caltech.

Caltech plans for more sustainable landscaping

By Sarah Marzen

COPY EDITOR

According to the January 10th faculty board minutes, Caltech will use guidelines developed by landscape architects from the Office of James Burnett to move Caltech landscaping "to a more sustainable posture."

The new guidelines include suggestions on water conservation, campus asset mitigation, storm water runoff treatment, and heat island mitigation. Campus asset mitigation focuses on maintaining and preserving the most important landscape features, such as "established trees", while heat island mitigation guidelines look to "minimize the increase of ambient temperatures across campus."

Assistant Vice President for Facilities Jim Cowell, who presented the new guidelines in the faculty board minutes, noted two major guideline changes for water conservation around campus. Part of the water conservation guide-

lines include higher efficiency irrigation systems. In addition, the Office of James Burnett has developed a list of 200 drought-resistant plants, some of which are already being planted around Annenberg Center, Schlinger, and in the space between Bridge and Sloan. Faculty board members raised some concerns about the new plant palette, including the lack of shade and "lushness".

Other suggestions made include better denotation of the campus perimeter, perhaps Mexican fan palms. Students may also see changes to the plants on the Olive Walk, since the 1970's planters around the Olive Walk trees no longer serve as a way to prevent people from parking too close to the trees. There are already projects to relandscape the front of Firestone, possibly the Red Door, and perhaps also the area near Jorgenson.

No specific dates for renovation are mentioned in the faculty board minutes.

Valentine's Day advice



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FEBRUARY 7, 2011

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

For Valentine's Day, man up and just ask

By Kyle Butler

STAFF WRITER

The dreaded day is nearly upon us. That's right gents, don't you dare feign forgetfulness. V-day is fast approaching and there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth if you find yourself unprepared. So what's a guy to do?

If you have a girlfriend and you don't have a plan yet, I don't know if there's any hope for you. The best you can do is find a bullet to bite. But if you are single and staring down the possibility of loneliness this Valentine's, there's a very simple solution to your plight. Just ask her out. You know who I'm talking about. That girl—the one you worked with on that last set, but it was more conversation and laughs than work. The one you checked answers with even though you already knew you had the right ones. Yeah, her. Ask her out (make sure she's single).

If you don't know who I'm talking about, you can stop reading. But I think you do know.

I'm not saying you should ask her out just because it's Valentine's. The season is an excuse to do what you should have done a month ago. Hang on, why didn't you ask a month ago? Maybe it was because you were about to knock on her door or dial her number or click send on that message when you thought,

"What if she says no?"

Well this time, before you dismiss a cozy Valentine's out of fear, be sure you aren't turning into a modern Prufrock. You remember him, the guy back in high school who never said a word to a girl. All pale and pasty, he'd slink around the halls always hugging the walls, wondering "Do I dare?" and, "Do I dare?" Don't let your inner Prufrock control you.

Instead follow the example of Siegfried, the hero of Wagner's opera Der Ring des Nibelungen (think Ride of the Valkyries). Siegfried's quest was to learn fear. On his journey he broke swords barehanded, slayed giant dragons, and laughed at threats from the gods. None of these taught Siegfried fear until he

found the most terrifying creature of them all—a woman, Brunhilde. What do we learn from this? We learn that women are the scariest monsters in the world, even worse than dragons. Just kidding, ... sort of. Siegfried falls in love with Brunhilde and his example points out that fear is an integral part of love. In order to experience the elation of acceptance, we have to face and conquer the possibility of rejection. So if you're scared, that's good, you're on the right track.

By the way, a date is not a marriage proposal. Keep it light. A date doesn't have to be a long-term commitment. It doesn't have to involve roses, chocolates, or a kiss goodnight. It doesn't even have to be just the two of you. The only requirement is that you have fun and that she does too. It's nothing to be afraid of.

So man up, just ask. She might say yes.



Above: Valentine's Day card, taken from <http://www.hotvalentinesday.com/valentine/valentines-day-cards/>

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ASCIT minutes

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes
January 27, 2011

Officers Present: Adam Khan, Addie Rice, Prakriti Gaba, Chris Hallacy, Tim Black, Brian Merlob
Officers Absent: Karthik Sarma

Call to order: 12:16 pm

President's report:

- ASCIT nominations: will be held Jan. 31st to Feb 4th.

Officer Reports:

- V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair): The IHC is soon having their retreat. Tim talked with Peter Daily about the bed bug situation. According to Peter, the situation has been effectively controlled and bed bugs should no longer be a problem in the houses. Fleming, Lloyd, and Blacker have officially elected new presidents that have all joined the IHC. Tim and Will S. are meeting with admissions about having students read applications for prospective students.
- Treasurer: Hallacy is continuing to distribute the last few checks for club/event funding.

Discussion:

- Endowment: The BoD is deciding how to efficiently manage the ASCIT endowment.
- Bylaw amendments: RevComm is still deciding whether to approve the new changes proposed by ASCIT.

Scheduling:

- ASCIT info session: Wednesday 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned: 12:34 pm

Submitted by Prakriti Gaba
ASCIT Secretary

**Write
opinions
for the
Tech**

get paid up to \$20

CANDIDATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2011 **3**

Jordan Theriot

ASCIT President



Chris Hallacy



After spending a year on the Board of Directors, the most commonly asked question I get is still "what does ASCIT do?" Does that make sense? Why, after 75 years of existence, should ASCIT still be so disconnected from the students it's trying to represent? I'm running for ASCIT president to change that image.

You want consistent services, such as bagels, which haven't happened this term. Makes sense to me.

You want an off campus formal but otherwise don't want huge money sinking events. After 3 years I think it's time for a good formal, but we shouldn't have more concerts that only appeal to a few of us and cost ASCIT 10k+.

You want your student government to take a stand for you when issues come up. You also want your student government to reach out and know what the students want. This shouldn't be so much a new service as one that should have always been present. Interacting with most of the administration while serving as your representative this past year, I can promise you I will represent your interests when difficult issues come up. And when the going gets tough, I'll make sure to come around and gather individual opinions on the issue so every voice is heard.

You want more interhouse interaction. ASCIT should have more social events to bring together the entire student body and increase multihouse funding to encourage house social teams to set up cross-house events.

You want services that ASCIT already provides, like the ASCIT screening room, well maintained and usable. It's unfortunate that this should even be a goal, but ASCIT has forgotten to maintain many services in lieu of exciting campaign promises from previous years.

And you want more student-faculty interaction. Isn't it a shame, with our ridiculously low student-faculty ratio, that most of us haven't met our professors? ASCIT can better this by incentivizing houses to bring professors to house dinner or taking profs out to dinner at a nice restaurant.

If elected, I will work toward making these goals a reality, while also maintaining the services we already offer. You can trust me to accomplish these goals because I have a track record as your ASCIT treasurer to do the job consistently well. During this past year I have worked to clean up ASCIT finances and saved you tens of thousands of dollars while also being accountable and reliable when dealing out funding.

You deserve a student government that is responsive and wants to represent you. Help me turn ASCIT into something we can all be proud of.

I have served, in one capacity or another, as an assistant or adviser to the last three ASCIT presidents. From a stint on the presidential staff, to fundraising for house endowments, to long meetings with administration and trustees, I have learned quite a lot about the job. It seems to me that I have three responsibilities to the student body:

Keep the wheels greased

This may not seem too exciting, but in reality, it is 90% of the job and to a large degree determines the success or failure of an ASCIT president. Three years in student government have taught me that Techers have no shortage of good ideas regarding how to improve student life. It is also a fact that there are piles of money available to fund these sorts of things. Why, then, are we not all running around, overjoyed at the arrival of the new ASCIT water-slide to be placed right next to the ASCIT moonbounce? Because somewhere along the process of planning, proposal writing, and implementation, momentum was lost and the project was allowed to die. With a student government as large as ours, this does not have to happen. What we need is a more organized system of accountability, with the workload more evenly spread out, so that started projects become finished projects.

Offer a big-ticket item

As ASCIT, we owe you something to get excited over. In the past, we've had ASCIT formal, the Third Eye Blind concert, and the Harvey Mudd party. We can definitely manage a couple of these events over the next year, and I want to hear from you about what you'd like to see happen.

Bring a personal project to the table

Every ASCIT president ought to have a pet project of their own. For me, it is the house endowments. I have been working on the house endowments project since it was first proposed by former ASCIT president Anthony Chong in my frosh year. Since then, we have come a long way, boosting Fleming's endowment and creating Page's. Now plans are underway to create one for Blacker too. For those unfamiliar with the project, the premise is that each house would have its own endowment funded by its alumni. Each year, the house will receive the interest payout and then have the freedom (albeit not absolute) to spend the money as they see fit. This project goes a long way towards putting the power to change student life back into the hands of the students.

I know that being ASCIT president is no small feat. It means spending hours a day responding to hundreds of emails. It means that students will come to you daily with their complaints and needs. It means that inevitably someone will call you "donut bitch" in the Tech. But it also means a chance to do justice to the good ideas Techers have about what student government can do for them. I would sincerely like that chance, donut bitch and all.

Vice President for Non Academic Affairs

Christian Rivas



I was inspired to run for Vice President of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair) two summers ago, before my first term had even begun.

Pallavi Gunalan's determination during her term as IHC Chair motivated me, and now, after Tim Black's excellent example, I am deeply honored to be a candidate.

As Chair, I would be the bridge between the student body and the administration. To that end, I would not only listen to the opinions and concerns of my fellow students, but would also comprehend the substantial role I would have in addressing those concerns and in ensuring that the visions of my peers come to fruition.

After speaking with members of every house recently, I have familiarized myself with the current issues that we feel are most

noteworthy, and am prepared to address them. It has become clear through these meetings that we feel that there is a severe lack of communication and understanding between students and administration. I find this issue incalculably significant, given that Caltech is so unique in that we, the student body, have a strong voice in the policies that directly affect us. We cannot allow our voice to be lost; as Chair, I would work with utmost tenacity to preserve this aspect of Caltech by supporting efforts to increase and improve student-faculty interaction,

such as a system in which faculty members attend dinners at each of the houses. As an excellent communicator, I am confident that I can convey our opinions resolutely but not stubbornly, astutely but not condescendingly, and decisively but not harshly.

Just as we cannot tolerate a lack of communication, we cannot afford disunity. With this thought in mind, I would place a great emphasis on interhouse relations as Chair, for it is my staunch belief that each of Caltech's students is valuable; at swim meets, when I cheer for my fellow Caltech swimmers, I don't cheer only for the Rudds and Skurves. I cheer for the success of all my teammates. I cheer to acknowledge the efforts and trials of those with whom I learn and live. I cheer, with all of you, for the betterment of Caltech.

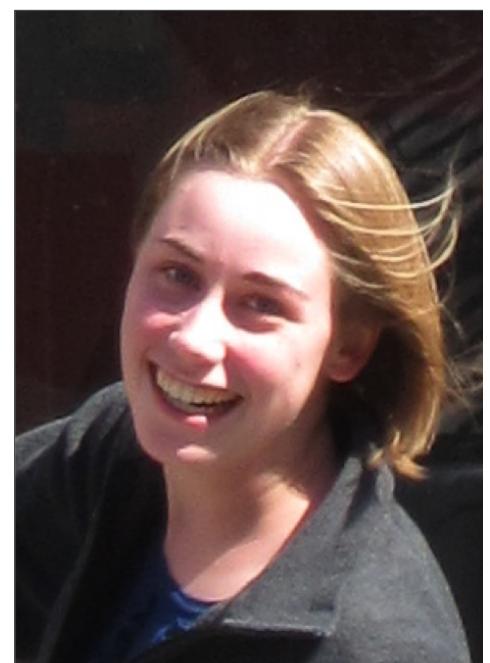
Laura Conwill

I was fortunate to have served as IHC Secretary this past year, and to have had the opportunity to work with all the House Presidents, who together with the Chair comprise the Interhouse Committee. I've learned quite a lot from them, and would be honored to have the opportunity to use my knowledge and experience to serve you as IHC Chair.

The largest job of the Interhouse Committee is to run Rotation. I was actively involved in Rotation last year and with that experience I will work to ensure that things run smoothly next fall. Together, we need to strike a balance between maintaining the House cultures and traditions (and displaying these during rotation) and ensuring that prefrosh have a positive experience at House dinners. I would like to revisit the conditions of eco-rotation to ensure that they are appropriate for this year's student body. My presence on the IHC would provide continuity to make sure everything is handled appropriately.

The IHC also handles negotiations with administrators that affect housing and other aspects of student life, manages student-faculty committee appointments, and is involved with preparations for Prefrosh Weekend. Prior to becoming IHC secretary, I served as ASCIT Secretary, and have been a student representative to the Admissions Committee for two years. In these positions, I have developed strong working relationships with the Deans, Tom Manning, and Admissions and know that I can represent students and address our interests and concerns to them. The IHC Chair is also a part of the ASCIT Board of Directors, and serves as the liaison between those two groups. I'm ready to work with the next ASCIT President to seamlessly lead the IHC and the ASCIT Board of Directors.

While the IHC Chair represents the Committee to the administration, the role of the Chair within the IHC is different. The IHC Chair guides discussion and proposes solutions to issues that arise, whether they be



conflicts between Houses or matters that affect students as a whole; the House Presidents are the ones to provide most of the input and reach a final decision.

The House Presidents are a diverse and talented group of people. Each one whom I have worked with on the IHC this past year has had a unique combination of leadership ability, organization, and the sense of humor needed to successfully run a Caltech House. This past year as IHC Secretary I was able to observe how, under the confident and thoughtful leadership of IHC Chair Tim Black, a wonderfully cohesive IHC worked together with the administration on issues such as the mural policy, Prefrosh Weekend, and improving Rotation. I would love to share my enthusiasm and experience with the IHC with a new group of House Presidents.

I am ready and willing to take on the responsibilities of IHC Chair and to serve you in the upcoming year. Thank you for your support.

Vice President of Academic Affairs

Margaret Chiu

A visitor to Caltech once told me that after her week-long stay she could distinguish the frosh from the upperclassmen based solely on how happy they appeared. While Caltech is known for producing well-trained undergraduates, the current system also manages to suck the life out of us leaving many upperclassmen cynical and unenthusiastic. How do passionate students of science wind up embittered after four years at a sunny Southern Californian mecca of science? I strongly believe that students deserve and can get the rigorous preparation expected of Caltech without the demoralization and suffering many students currently endure. My goal as ARC chair would be to promote institutional changes that would improve student satisfaction with their education.

During my two years as ARC representative for Lloyd, I have worked on various projects such as collecting student feedback for pass/fail policy change and putting together a frosh guide to academics. In addition, because of my interest in quality education at Caltech, I have been on a number of faculty committees including the Core Curriculum Steering Committee, the Council for Undergraduate Education, and the Student Faculty Conference Bio Option Committee, which I am chairing. The experience I have gained from the ARC and various curriculum committees has exposed me to the many academic concerns and areas of potential improvement at Caltech. Below are key items that I wish to work on during my time as ARC chair.

With the CCTF's final report for a new core came a proposal for renewed emphasis on innovative and excellent teaching in the core. For me, one of the most concerning issues at Caltech is teaching quality in core. Changes can be made to core with the intention of providing a better education to students, but without high teaching quality students will not have an improved learning experience



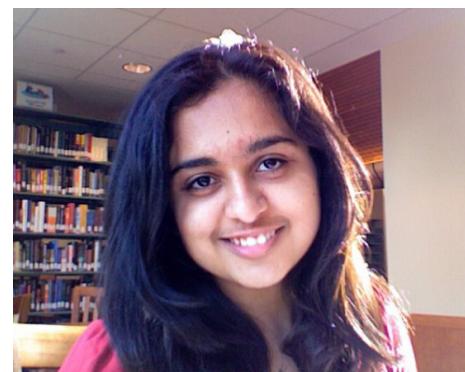
and as a result will continue to suffer.

Throughout the implementation of a new core, I will push for faculty and administration to focus on improving teach quality through student input.

Student feedback is an extremely valuable tool for helping professors and TAs refine their courses. As ARC chair, I will work on improving communication between students and faculty. I would love if we could bypass various intermediaries and have students raising concerns to professors directly, but I understand that is not always ideal for students who may be shy or afraid of offending a professor. Because direct communication is not always going to happen, I will work to make other mediums of communication a strong force in voicing student opinion such as a consistent use of ombuds across courses, active option clubs such as Chem Club and BUSAC, and a more palatable TQFR.

I don't wish to drone on forever, so I won't go into the details of all my aspirations for the ARC. Some other projects I would work on while ARC Chair include better integrating TQFR and CLUE (the course review page on donut), expanding course capturing, providing more programs that encourage student faculty interaction, reviving the bookmart (I'm tired of the endless book spam!), and facilitating the implementation of a curriculum that caters to the range of students that come to Caltech.

Please feel free to contact me [mchiu@caltech.edu] if you want to know more about my ideas or share some of your own.



Shruti Mishra

My name is ShrutiMishra, and I am a junior currently majoring in Bioengineering. I hope to be your next Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Over the past year, I have been on the ARC as both Representative-At-Large and Secretary. During this period, I have learned about all the ARC does and more importantly what the ARC has the power to do. Over the past several months, I have been working alongside Karthik and the rest of the ARC to oversee the changes being proposed to the current core curriculum, to improve the current TQFR system, and to prepare for a successful Student Faculty Conference.

As ARC Chair, first and foremost, I want to see things come to completion. The Caltech Core Curriculum has been a topic of discussion for probably as long as it has existed, and after years of hard work, we are finally going to be able to see the culmination of that effort in the next couple of years. As ARC Chair, I hope to work with the CUE (Committee for Undergraduate Education) in making the transition as smooth as possible, as well as serve as a liaison for faculty and students in working out the challenges that will come up as a result.

In the short term, one of the most important changes that I hope to see happen very soon are changes to the TQFR. The TQFR is the most important platform for making long-term changes to courses; however, the response

rate for TQFRs almost never breaks 50%. On the ARC we have been currently working to get the TQFRs more user-friendly, and there will be some changes implemented as early as this term. I hope to continue with this project, so that TQFRs are easier to use and less generic for students, and the information obtained more relevant for faculty.

In the long term, I want to see the issues brought up in this year's SFC addressed, and see the relevant changes come into fruition. It is definitely easier to sit and talk about possible problems and solutions, and much more difficult to see them come into action. As ARC Chair, I will work with the options and the various ARC committees to see that the problems are further explored even after SFC, so that we have a possibility of making a difference for the future.

Lastly, I would like to increase general undergraduate participation in academic affairs. I don't think that the only people who should be allowed to make a difference are those who we choose by election. Rather, I want everyone to be able to bring their issues to the ARC, and know that they will be dealt with in a timely manner. I want to make the student presence in ARC student-faculty committees less a formality and more an avenue for bringing undergraduate opinion into academic decisions around campus.

Finally, I'd just like to say that I can by no means promise to make Caltech perfect, or even a substantially better place to be while you are still here. However, I do believe that even small changes can make a big difference, and we can together bring Caltech one-step closer to being a better place. I hope you will help me with your support in this election, and in the coming year.

Treasurer

Mario Zubia



Money's important. We all know this, and as treasurer, I will put forth my best effort to see that our money is being put towards things that us students actually care about.

Over the last year, I've been helping out our current treasurer with day-to-day tasks and have become familiar with how the ASCIT budget works. I've seen where money is allocated and how much of it is actually spent.

Under Hallacy, some pretty good changes were made concerning club funding and by the looks of it, we're probably going to have some more money for next year. I would really like to see that this money is put towards the clubs, us students, and things that matter to you.

As treasurer, I plan to build upon the success and correct a few of the faults from last year. I know how the system works and feel that I can work through challenges more quickly and facilitate transactions in a more timely manner. I'll do my best to address the issues you guys have and will put my all into this position. I'm experienced and well-qualified for the job. I'd appreciate your vote. Thanks.

I am willing to put in the effort to make the following year an enjoyable experience for everyone.

Moreover, I was a member of student government in high school as well and know what it takes to put together dances, concerts, and barbeques. I enjoy having fun with not only my friends, but also anyone else that wants to participate. I'm not afraid of taking risks and trying new things. This past year during rotation, I suggested the idea of the paint party, "splattered" with some other members of my house. It turned out to be one of the most successful parties I've been to since my time at Caltech. Furthermore, time commitment for this position will not be a problem for me. For those of you who know me, I always make sure that I get what needs to be done completed far in advance, sometimes even too early. My belief is that if I'm involved in something, I want to do my best at it. If elected to the position of Social Director, I will continue to suggest more new ideas for events, listen to the preferences of my peers, and hopefully put together exciting events for the entire student body.

Director for Social Activities

Prakriti Gaba



Nina Budeava

Given the tightness of our community, I believe that it is very important to maintain an amicable and exciting atmosphere that allows all members to thoroughly enjoy their time here. Sure, everyone goes through nightmare-like periods (like Midterms!). However, these periods inevitably pass and I believe that it is a task of the ASCIT Director for Social Activities to ensure that Techers leave Caltech with only the best memories.

As the ASCIT Director for Social Activities, I would continue the favorite social activities that we have been enjoying and I would encourage new ones. If you liked the Summer Welcome Party, the Page Karaoke Night and Neon Night that happened last summer, you will certainly enjoy what I have to offer as the ASCIT Director for Social Activities.



Caltech can be a stressful place, especially as we get caught up with our busy schedules including lab, sports, and ofcourse the notorious workload. However, I believe that despite the work, Caltech has many advantages, and perhaps one of the greatest advantages is its size. With the small student body, we, as Caltech undergraduates, have the advantage of a more personable environment. This close knit connection has allowed me to get to know the student body quite well over the past year and a half. I've come to learn what students want (i.e. an ASCIT formal, concerts) to have a more fulfilling and complete experience at Caltech.

My goal as ASCIT social director will be to continue to listen to my peer's ideas as well as to remove the distance between the houses and ASCIT in order to get more student participation in campus-wide events. Currently, I am ASCIT secretary and a member of the BoD, so I am very familiar with the skills required for the position of social director and have first-handedly experienced what the position entails. I understand that it will require a substantial amount of work, but

Director of Operations

Ted Xiao



We need people in ASCIT who will do a great job. I, Ted Xiao, will do that!!!

Ok, no more sound bits. I really love Caltech, and I know that I want to make a difference for the Caltech community. I will put in my full devotion and effort into the tasks of the Ops. There will be times when I will stay up until early morning to sort out forms for club funding instead of completing a set. There will be times when I will spend numerous hours per day helping the Tech, little t, Totem, Donut, and Big T with their publications and making sure they stay on track. There will be times when the SAC rooms and ASCIT properties require extreme "make-over" and maintenance. Who can be there and be trusted with all these tasks? I -Ted Xiao can. I will make sure that student organizations will receive resources that they need from ASCIT with ease. I will update the list of active clubs. I will work with the Social Director to carry out more exciting events. I have experience with publications and eager to recruit students to work for The Tech. I want to see ASCIT work more efficiently to serve the Caltech community, and I want to make every ASCIT event run more smoothly for everyone.

As an underclassman, I am not already burdened by numerous positions. Currently, I am just involved with Caltech Y and Caltech Premed Association. Thus, I will have ample amount of time that will be dedicated to the Ops. If elected, I, as an Eagle Scout and a Scout leader, promise you that I am trustworthy, loyal, helpful, and friendly.

Mahati Mokkarala



Hello my name is Mahati Mokkarala, member of the Class of 2013, and interested in becoming the Director of Operations of the 2011 year. I would be a good Director of Operations not only because I am responsible, hard working, and

am determined to make a difference via the Caltech student government but also because I am involved in clubs and other organizations on campus. I understand how important all of the ASCIT-backed organizations/clubs are for the Caltech community especially considering most of these organizations are a way for Caltech students to get involved in different interests/activities other than just academics. As the Director of Operations I would make sure that all ASCIT-backed equipment, organizations, clubs, etc. are running smoothly and that ASCIT funds are appropriately distributed to organizations and events that will benefit the Caltech community.

Diego Caporale



The Director of Operations is utilizing Donut and standardizing and simplifying the procedure. I would make Donut more user-friendly and add more, up-to-date content. I also plan to make sure that the student body gets a Big T this year. Lastly, I will spearhead an effort to inventory and maintain all ASCIT property to guarantee that student money is not wasted on broken or lost equipment. As your Director of Operations, I will start making changes that benefit the Caltech community.

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Board of Control Secretary

Nikki Thadani



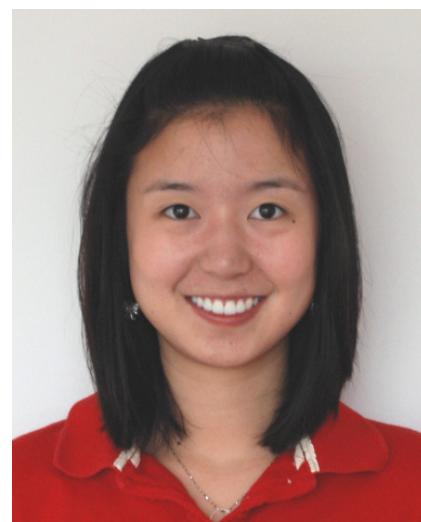
I'm Nikki Thadani, a junior in Ricketts. For the past year, I have been one of the Ricketts BoC reps, and I would like to continue serving on the BoC as secretary next year. Having sat on several cases each term over the past year, I have come to understand and value the unique method in which Caltech deals with honor code violations. I strongly believe that a student-run board leads to decisions that are both sympathetic to the stresses that Caltech students face and aware of the benefits that a respected Honor Code brings to student life. I would love to stay involved in this process in the coming year.

The job of BoC secretary in-

volves documenting initial reports, preliminary hearings, and full board meetings in the form of written transcripts, and preparing and presenting a summary of each case to the Dean of Students. As BoC Secretary, I will make sure cases are considered on a timely basis by arranging the necessary meetings efficiently and preparing relevant interviews and documents before cases so that BoC reps can make informed decisions with no unnecessary delays. I will also work towards increasing student awareness of how the BoC functions so that cases are less intimidating and the decisions made are less mysterious to the student body. I hope to do so by improving the resources that are available to students who have questions about the honor code or who are asked to appear in a BoC case. While deciding to run I considered my schedule for next year and I am prepared to commit the time required to do this job well. I would be honored to serve the Caltech community and the honor code as BoC secretary. Thank you in advance for your support in this coming election.

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Iris Liu



"Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom," said Thomas Jefferson. The Honor System plays a more integral role at Caltech than at any other academic institution. It is something Caltech students abide to and take pride in. I believe it is our duty, as students of Caltech, to protect and preserve this system. As your Board of Control Secretary, I will not only bring diligence and leadership, but also four years of Student Council experiences, to the table.

I am no stranger to hosting meetings, organizing events, and communicating with top faculty members. At my residential high school, I held a strong voice in making decisions relating to how we lived on campus. As Residential Life Committee Co-Chair of Student Council, I ran weekly

meetings to discuss and plan events such as midnight mixers, the revamping of our game room, and our show called IMSA Idol. I, along with my committee, acted as a liaison between the students and the residential life faculty. Some of my accomplishments included changing school rules to allow student cell phone use in the main buildings and negotiating with companies to successfully acquire better vending machines.

Holding a strong voice in my community was also important. The Naperville Public Library has been, for ten consecutive years, the number one nationally ranked library. As the student representative of the Naperville Library's Board of Trustees for two years, I attended monthly meetings to discuss budgets and plan new projects. It was also my responsibility to reach out to my peers in the community and to hear what they had to say about the library system.

Through my experiences, I have become adept at planning formal meetings, facing conflicts, and meeting strict deadlines. As your Board of Control Secretary, I promise to be an assiduous, responsible role model. I will represent our Honor System respectfully and honestly.

My name is Iris Liu, and I would like to be your BoC Secretary.

Kristen Holtz



The Honor Code is a very important part of Caltech and a good Board of Control is essential to lead the community in the Honor Code's application. As a BoC representative for Lloyd House for the past year, I have worked on many BoC cases and have become even more interested and invested in upholding the Honor Code. I would like to continue to contribute to Caltech by being BoC Secretary. In addition to being a BoC Rep this past year, I have also been serving Lloyd House as a UCC. I care very much about my fellow students and want to help Caltech continue its tradition of excellence in any way I can.

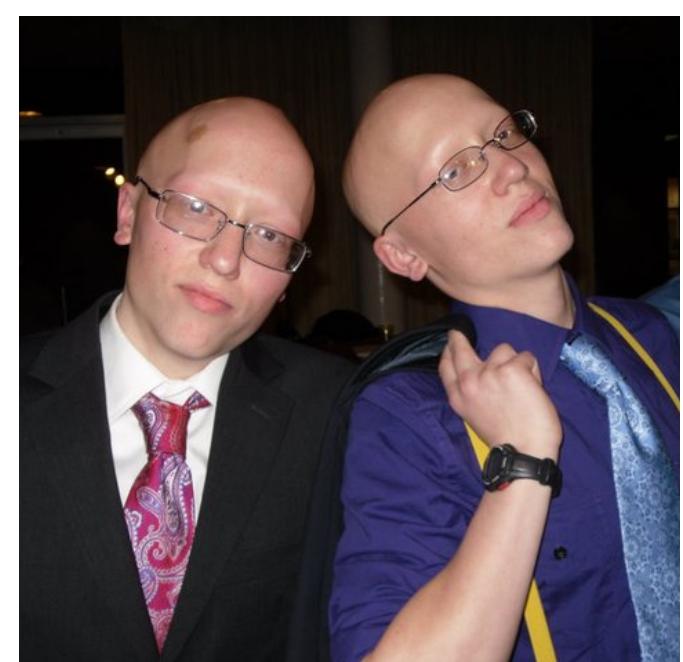
Tech Editors

John Schor, Stan Schor, Sandhya Chandrasekhan, and Amol Kamat

Ideally, the Tech should be the primary resource to which people refer for campus news, not simply for an entertaining lunch read. As consistent writers and contributors to the paper over this past year, we have seen the progress our campus newspaper has made and are willing to put in the extra effort to bring out the best in what the newspaper could potentially be. Ad revenues have steadily increased, and our knowledge of InDesign has produced creative, visually appealing yet professional layouts. Furthermore, the delegation of responsibilities among the five of us will not only ensure that all the necessary tasks are accomplished, but that the quality of each section does not diminish in a rush to meet deadlines.

It is true that the Tech has continually faced a shortage of writers; at a place like Caltech, writing seems to be largely undervalued and overlooked in the midst of problem sets and other academic commitments. However, this can all be fixed with proper planning and story discussions and assignments well in advance of publication, giving more people enough time and the opportunity they need to contribute.

We are driven individuals and involved in various aspects of the Caltech community. With your vote, we hope to provide this community with the news it merits.



From top left, going clockwise: Amol Kamat, John and Stan Schor, and Sandhya Chandrasekhan.

Board of Control Chair

Chris Kohler

I have served this past year as a Representative at Large on the BoC, and the cases I have sat on have provided me with substantial experience on how to continue to serve the community as Chair. The Honor Code tends to be something we

take for granted - I know when taking exams that I'm too busy worrying about passing to appreciate that I don't have to get up a 8:00am and crawl into a lecture hall to take it in a proctored setting. But it is the single most important thing that makes Caltech the unique place that it is, and so I want to

continue serving the community by upholding the Honor Code.

Being on the BoC has made me appreciate how much work needs to be put into maintaining the Honor Code. The Board not only acts to protect the community by dealing with those who violate the Honor Code in a way

which will hopefully allow them to mend their ways and regain our trust, but also protects individu-



als from false accusation by providing a painstaking investigation to determine the truth.

As Chair, it would be my duty to represent the Board to the community. I would take reports from professors and TAs, interview defendants and witnesses, and

regularly discuss cases with the Deans. I am committed to putting in the time and effort necessary to maintain the strongly positive reputation we have with the Deans and faculty. I will also put in that extra bit of devotion to ensure that the workings of the system are as open and straightforward as possible (while preserving the confidentiality of everyone involved), so that you, the members of community, can be served in the fairest and least intimidating way possible. If you have any questions, I encourage you to ask me in person or email me at ckolner@caltech.edu.

The Honor Code is the most important part of our community, and I hope to continue to be able to do my part in upholding it.

As we all go through Caltech, we cannot deny that the Honor Code is one of the aspects that we hold dearest and take the highest pride in. The Board of Control has its initial duty to uphold this standard of academic integrity. In practice, our job is to organize cases and give BoC talks to incoming students.

As an active BoC rep for two years, I've sat through cases - some hard and some easy. I have seen that people are prone to make honest mistakes, no matter how careful they are, and the last thing the BoC should do is to make any case even more stressful than it already is. As BoC chair, I will work to ensure that the board arranges meetings in a timelier manner, which will reduce the time one has to have the case looming in one's mind. Additionally, it also takes care of the unfair advantage gained

Ploy Sriwon



in real time rather than having to wait over breaks, which becomes less beneficial for others taking the class.

Moreover, I see the BoC as more than just a student body that runs honor code violation cases. It is also a part of the community

that helps to make us aware of how our own actions affect those around us. I believe that the board has to take more initiative to help Techers adjust to life under the Honor Code. In addition to regular BoC talks, one of my ideas is to publish a little booklet that has interesting anecdotes and opinions from both students and professors on how the Honor Code drives academics at Caltech, how to adjust your mindset from high school to college and what Caltech is all about. The goal is to show how the Honor Code weaves into our lives at this place, which, as simple as it sounds, usually takes a while before we actually truly understand it.

The Honor Code is not only about following the rules and bullet points on the exam cover. It's about the attitude.

Years of experience has provided me with reasonable judgment and understanding; not only the understanding of how the Board of Control works, but also how we all work as a community in this system. My dear fellow Techers, I will be honored to serve as your BoC chair.

Conduct Review Committee Chair



Aarathi Minisandram

I am running for the position of CRC Chair. I have been a house CRC representative for the past year and had some experience in the chair role by acting as chair for a case over summer. I would like to get involved further as CRC chair. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at rmini@caltech.edu.



Eugene Vinitsky

I think the best thing about Caltech is its do as you want attitude. A forgiving crac will keep this spirit alive.
I promise to enact a relaxed reign of terror.



Neha Samdaria

Caltech's community is built upon an underlying trust between the students, the faculty and the administration. Part of the reason this trust is maintained is because the voices of undergraduates are not kept silent, and their interests are well represented. The Conduct Review Committee (CRC), in particular, prides itself on undergraduate involvement in ensuring that people can be held accountable for their everyday actions, and as a prior CRC Rep, I have seen just how effective this involvement can be.

As CRC Chair, I will continue to make sure that Caltech undergrads are given fair oversight and that their input remains integral to the decision making process. I will do what I can to ensure that actions are reviewed in an unbiased and non-judgmental way, and that the outcome reinforces the trust we have in our committees to make the right decisions.



Alexandra Souverneva

A Mustache Lost in Translation

By MARY NGUYEN

PASADENA – The Caltech C, the university's Chinese Club, held a variety show Wednesday to celebrate the Lunar New Year. The public was invited to enjoy a number of different performances including a skit titled "The Adventure of Emperor Chien Lung."

Organizers of the event chose to flawlessly use Baxter's projection and sound for crimson title cards, a five-minute timer, a handheld camera feed of sand painting, various landscape photos, visualizations for music from Windows Media Player, and a credit roll against a background of equations complete with a blockbuster movie soundtrack. These exceptionally important images were used over the course of the entire show to add excitement to the atmosphere in Baxter Lecture Hall.

As a result, no translations were displayed for scripted host banter and routines. Senior Chinese language experts Alex Takeda and Greg Simonian consequently provided a translation of "The Adventure of Emperor Chien Lung." The skit relied particularly heavily on the general audience's instinctive fluency in Chinese.

"The story is an ancient tale of Emperor Chien Lung in the far distant lands [sic] of Toronto, Canada," said Takeda, a Japanese-Brazilian Brazilian native, as the emperor entered the stage. He wore a yellow, embroidered, floor-length robe. A bronze-colored space needle sat regally on top of a red hat perched on top of Emperor Lung's perfect head. However, while the top of the head was immaculate, the kingly front was missing an important feature.

"You see," said Simonian, an Armenian Los Angeles native, "for generations the Chien Lung dynasty [sic] has had a ceremonial mustache, which they have passed down father to son." However, one day, the fu manchu had disappeared.

After summoning his maroon-robed "beloved assistant" with the question, "O Assistant, where is my ancient mustache? I do not see it on my face," the emperor and assistant sailed from "the frigid land of Canada to the hot Amazon River."

While in a banana garden in the Amazon, they saw fraternal twins, dressed comfortably in rose robes.

"Uh yea...two 'sisters,'" said Takeda. One of the sisters had stolen the mustache for "private reasons," namely, a prank.

When the emperor discovered the treason, he put an apple on the 'sister's' head to shoot it with an arrow, but he missed. He had hit the apple instead.

By the end of the 16 minute and 61 second story, the two translators concluded that the emperor started celebrating with the sisters. He never found his mustache and instead grew another one.

Once the translators left Baxter Lecture Hall, they were asked whether or not their translation of the story was perfect.

"They are very accurate translations. I am a fine translator by the Chinese consulate in LA [sic]," said Takeda.

Mary Nguyen reported from the elevated grounds of Baxter Lecture Hall.



(NotAP Photo/Lan Nguyen) According to expert translators, the 'sister' on the left tells her fraternal twin sister about how she stole Emperor Chien Lung's mustache from right

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