

# THE CALIFORNIA TECH



VOLUME CVIII, NUMBER 13

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 22, 2007

## ASCIT Candidates Debate for a Sparse Audience

BY: NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

*Students may vote for the ASCIT President and Vice-President starting at 10 AM today at <http://donut.caltech.edu/vote>. Polls close one minute before midnight.*

*Statements on Page 4*

In the world outside of Caltech, presidential elections are surrounded by clouds of intrigue, anticipation, waste of incredible sums of money, and intense slandering of candidates by their opponents. In Caltech, they are surrounded by apathy and indifference.

The ASCIT elections lack the fuss of ordinary elections and seem to stir little excitement on campus. The void of students' interest in campus politics was demonstrated on Friday, when the ASCIT candidates were given a chance to present their views and answer some questions during a lunch-time debate.

Although attendance to the debate was open to everybody who was interested, the audience was sparse. Out of the entire student body, only a dozen people spent their lunch in front of the Winnett Student Center, where the debates

took place, and less than half of them came of their own free will.

Nevertheless, Chris Gonzales, Craig Montuori, both competing for the post of President, and Mike Grinolds, who is running for VP/BoC Chair unopposed (note another instance of apathy), proceeded to answer questions and discuss their policies.

The debate, moderated by Dipayan Ghosh of *The Tech*, was set up as a channel between the ASCIT presidential and vice-presidential candidates and the student body of Caltech. Gonzales and Montuori talked about the usual issues associated with holding a position of power, including their qualification for the job, their view of student-administration relationship, their plans for the future, issues with the past ASCIT governments, and their dedication to the job.

The main difference in the candidates' views seems to stem from their take on how the administration should be treated. Montuori cited a "good working relationship," achieved through frequent meetings and equal representation from the two sides, as a best way to get things done. Gonzales took a more disgruntled stand.

He said, "Administrators often do what is easiest for themselves, not necessarily what is best for the students. What we have to



Photo by Matt Glassman

Chris Gonzales, left, and Craig Montuori explain why they should be the next ASCIT President.

do through ASCIT is get in their face, we have to make sure they know they should come to the students, and make it easier for them to come to us."

Grinolds is running unop-

posed, but still participated in his own one-sided debate. Among several suggestions, he proposed establishing an Honor Chair to overlook the BoC and CRC, while having one or two separate chairs

to sit on the cases. Grinolds further discussed the development of a centralized website as well as the need to release more information pertaining to the Honor Code

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## Women's Basketball: Road to Victory



Photo by Mandy Gamble

Rene Davis looks for a teammate to pass to. Full story on Page 7

Free Stuff Festival this Wednesday

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## Interhouse Party a Success

BY: HAROLD MARTIN

Recently, Techers threw a party of a scale unprecedented in recent years. Planned as a celebration of the reopening of the South Houses, the party hearkened back to the Interhouse party tradition and brought in an impressive number of alumni and other guests.

"Interhouse was far better than

anyone could have hoped," said Chris Gonzales, ASCIT Social Director. "We showed a collective effort that surpassed the construction of any individual parties in at least recent Tech history."

According to Tim Chang, Director of Housing, over two thousand sand people attended the party, a number so large that the parties began to run short of drinks midway through the night.

Dabney, which opened earlier than the other parties, ran out of alcohol first. Ricketts agreed to allow other parties to use its alcohol supply, and a midnight trip to Ralph's brought in barely enough to allow the parties to continue through the rest of the night.

Despite the high number of guests, there were no significant

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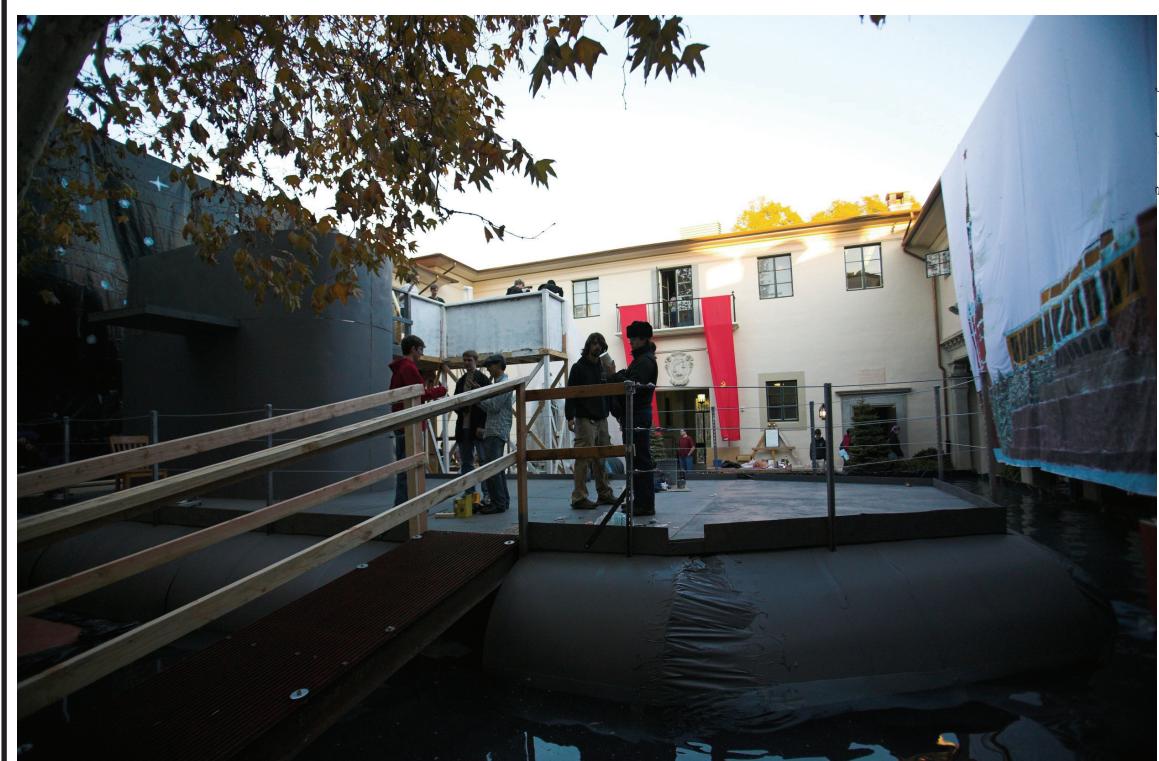


Photo by Andy Chung

Moles and Rudds diligently worked on a theme of Soviet Russia for Interhouse Party last weekend.

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BY: VIBHA LALJANI

## THE NATION

## Richardson seeks office

Bill Richardson, the governor of New Mexico, is the latest Democrat to declare an interest in the 2008 presidential election. He has announced that he is setting up a presidential exploratory committee.

If elected, Mr. Richardson would become the first Hispanic president.

Hillary Clinton and African-American Senator Barack Obama are also planning to run for the position.

Mr. Richardson has served in numerous senior government posts. He was energy secretary and the US ambassador to the UN during Bill Clinton's presidency.

## Motorola to cut 3,500 jobs

The world's second largest phone company is cutting 3,500 jobs to save \$400 million, after profits tumbled 48 percent in the fourth quarter.

Shares rose 3% after Motorola's announcement on Friday, but the company still lags behind the market-dominating Nokia.

Motorola will also face competition from last week's announce-

ment of Apple's iPhone, a heavy contender to Motorola's Razr.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## China's missile test faces international criticism

Japan, USA and Australia have expressed concern over a weapons test China carried out in space last week.

US government officials said that China used a ground-based, medium range ballistic missile to knock out a Chinese Feng Yun 1C polar orbit weather satellite from its orbit about 537 miles above Earth. They said it was destroyed by an anti satellite system launched from or close to China's Xichang Space Centre on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Japanese government and several US allies, including Canada and Australia, have expressed distress from the viewpoint of security and peaceful use of space.

## ENTERTAINMENT

## Racism row on TV

Jade Goody, the British reality TV star who became popular for her on-air antics, was accused of racism and bullying for her treatment of the Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty on *Celebrity Big Brother*. She was evicted by public vote on Friday after her remarks became known around the world.

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About 40000 people complained to the media regulator. And politicians in UK and India were also drawn into the debate.

Goody denied being racist and apologized to anyone she may have offended. She told the News of the World newspaper that she made racist comments and she was "shocked and disgusted" by her behavior. She also made up with Shetty before leaving.

Before being evicted on Friday, Jade and other housemates were questioned by Big Brother about the disputes and whether they were racially motivated.

However, there have been speculations that Goody was warned about the public fury she had unleashed in her rows. It is claimed that Channel 4 coached Goody to respond to public reaction appro-

priately. The Channel 4 spokesperson denied all the claims.

## Little Miss Sunshine in surprise film win

Low-budget film Little Miss Sunshine was awarded best picture by the Producers Guild of America (PGA) in a surprise decision. This award is said to be one of the main pointers to Oscars success because the winner of best picture at the Oscars has matched the PGA's choice in 11 out of the past 17 years.

Little Miss Sunshine is a comedy about a dysfunctional family who resolve to get its little seven-year-old daughter into the finals of a beauty pageant. It stars Toni Collette and Steve Carell.

## SPORTS

## US soccer team beats Denmark 3 – 1

Two newcomers and a veteran gave new coach Bob Bradley a victory in his debut with the US national team.

This game was the first for the US after their early exit at the World Cup seven months earlier.

It was also their first win in five attempts against the Danes.

The match was played in front of about 10,048 spectators at the Home Depot Center just south of Los Angeles.

Dennis Sorenson put the Danes ahead in the 37<sup>th</sup> minute. Donovan ties it 7 minutes later with a penalty that missed the hands of goalkeeper Jesper Christiansen. It was Donovan's first goal in 18 matches since July 2005.

Jonathan Bornstein, a 22-year-old who was Major League Soccer's Rookie of the Year last season when playing for Bradley at Chivas USA, put US 2-1 by scoring a goal from 8 yards in the 57<sup>th</sup> minute off a cross from Justin Mapp. This was followed by Kenny Cooper's goal in the 79<sup>th</sup> minute that put US 3-1.

## CORRECTIONS

We occasionally make mistakes. In last week's issue:

\*The photo credit of Natalya Kostandova climbing a tree belongs to Jan Petykiewicz

## Few Students Attended Friday's Debate



Photo by Matthew Glassman

Todd Gingrich, the current ASCIT President, and other present office-holders constituted most of the debate's audience.

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while maintaining confidentiality of the students.

While some of the issues discussed were quite important in relation to the students' lives, the most amusing thing about the debate was the nonchalance with which it was met. As apathetic as Techers are, even last year they responded to the elections with more attention and interest (possibly because they had been more dissatisfied about their ASCIT government than this year's students). Not only were there more candidates in the running (three

for President and two for VP/BoC Chair), but the debate itself was attended by at least 50 students. Overall, 527 students voted in the election.

The outgoing ASCIT President Todd Gingrich simply replied with emotionless "Blah blah blah blah blah" when asked about his feelings about this year's debate.

The ASCIT Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections are held today, Jan. 22. The results will be announced by Wednesday morning.

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# Despite large crowds, Interhouse proceeded fairly peacefully

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

damages, nor did any other major incidents occur. The only safety difficulty was in the Fleming/Rud-dock party, where a main support wire for the bridge had pulled free of a clamp, forcing the bridge to be closed off during the party.

The security of the party was credited in no small part to a vol-

unteer group of students who ensured that their parties remained orderly. Only a dozen or so party crashers were ejected from the party after causing minor disturbances.

The success of the party allayed many previous fears about the security of the students and the campus during a large party.

"If this is a model, I think (future Interhouse parties) can be done successfully," said Chang.

Alumni reaction to the party was also extremely positive. "The alumni mostly agreed that the level of construction was on par with the golden age of Interhouse," said Gonzales, "there seemed to be a lot of interest among alumni for bringing back Interhouse as a

yearly tradition."

"It was like what I remember, really elaborate, really impressive," said Gary Lorden, the Caltech undergraduate alumnus who later served as Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs during the time when Interhouse grew to an unmanageable size. Lorden added that he was, "pleased to see that Interhouse could be held

again."

"We're grateful for (the Alumni's) help and support in bringing Interhouse back," said Craig Montouri, IHC Chair, "I think we've got a lot of moral support from Administrators as well as the Alumni Association and other important groups associated with the campus to make Interhouse happen next year."

Photo by Andy Chung



A view of the submarine in the middle of Blacker's courtyard

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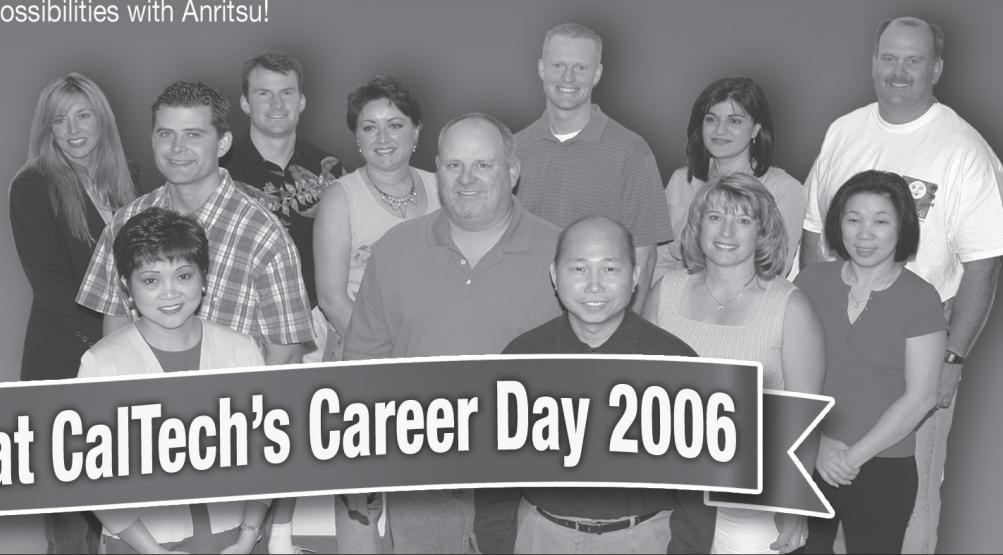
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## Candidate Statements

The elections for ASCIT President and Vice-President/BOC Chair take place today. Vote online at <http://donut.caltech.edu>.

### Presidential candidates share visions of ASCIT's role



**Gonzo and his running mate, Potamus the hairless guinea pig**

**BY: CHRIS GONZALES**

One thing the administration doesn't want you to know is that we the undergraduates of Caltech have the opportunity to be the strongest group on campus. As seen last year from the aftermath of the 7-day board program, even the head of dining is not immune from our wrath if he ignores the students' interests. But the question is how can we increase our strength and leverage it to our advantage?

First and foremost, administrators should be forced to realize that they are bound by the honor code. There have been numerous quotes from administrators in the Tech that show a mistaken belief that their actions do not fall under this honor system.

Let's get this straight once and for all—charging houses or individuals an exorbitantly inflated fee to repair damages is taking unfair advantage of them. Forcing South House gates on us under the condition that they would be unlocked during the day and then renege, having them instead locked 24 hours, is taking unfair advantage of us students.

What Caltech needs is an active grievance body, such as the BoC, that investigates administrative violations of the honor code and rectifies them. Short of this, we need to at least educate the administrators that the honor code does apply to their dealings and that certain actions in the near-past do represent honor code violations and should be avoided in the future.

Our past failing has been that we as a student body have been easy to ignore. Our administration, for the most part, wants to do what is right by the students or at least reach a palatable compromise. However, administrators are busy; they don't have the time to go out of their way to seek out student opinions over every matter.

This is where ASCIT comes in. The ASCIT board of directors and specifically the president is a convenient point of contact for the administration to at least get some student feedback on proposed actions.

Even with this, we can't wait for them to contact us; the ASCIT president has to proactively seek out administrators on a regular basis, reminding them that the student opinion does matter and giving them a sounding board for proposed policies.

Why do I think I can provide the energy and hard work it takes to change our relationship with administrators? Two years of planning social events has given me a great working relationship with all levels of Student Life, from the secretaries to the deans and directors.

In the week leading up to Interhouse, I was in two meetings a day with various subsets of administrators. These weren't just me being told about policies relating to the party, but were instead a series negotiations in which I successfully got the alcohol and guest policies somewhat loosened.

I have received numerous notes from administrators thanking me for the handling of this party and expressing a great willingness to work with me in the future.

We have a lot on our plate this coming year, including work to make Interhouse a yearly tradition without raising ASCIT dues, the planning and fundraising for another concert, and negotiations about administrative actions including the proposed termination of early admissions and continuing problems in the South Houses.

In the past two years, first as a member and then a director of the ASCIT social team, I have been responsible for planning two formals, one concert and one Interhouse, along with numerous happy hours and athletic barbecues.

All in all, these represent over \$120,000 in budgets along with cooperation with members of every house, GSC officers, administrators from every office on campus, and groups from outside the Caltech community. Most importantly, all these events went off without major disaster and the majority were really fun.

I hope to bring this level of organization, planning, and keen eye for the needs of students to the office of ASCIT President and in doing so, restore the strength of the undergraduates.



**ASCIT President candidate Craig Montuori gives a thumbs-up**

**BY: CRAIG MONTUORI**

Okay, so this is a tough one. We've got two candidates; both of whom seem pretty competent. Chris is a great guy, and he's done a terrific job as Social Director. So why should you vote for me instead?

In short, I think that I've got a better sense of what ASCIT can and can't do. Looking back at the histories, Todd was probably the best ASCIT president we've had in a long while.

And yet, people still complain that ASCIT doesn't do anything for them. Chris, like numerous others before him, thinks that one person can and should change the student government.

It's a good goal, but it's an oft-repeated goal. Year after year, candidates have come and gone promising to be the one to Save ASCIT and make the Undergrads a Power on campus. So why hasn't it happened yet? I highly doubt that it's the fault of the candidates over the past three decades or so.

Instead, I think the purpose ASCIT is meant to serve is to mostly operate in the background. Essentially, people are happiest here when they're left alone to do their thing. They don't want an in-your-face government, but they don't want "the Administration" to walk all over them.

They want their donuts, but they don't want someone trying to get people to march with signs in protest. I mean, the last time we had a truly "activist student government," the students tried to recall that president, back in the late '60s.

I think that Todd found one of the best balances between having a quiet ASCIT, but one that stood up to try to prevent things from happening that we would perceive as a problem. He also seemed to realize that when things were too big for ASCIT, then it was time to let the massed voice of the students try to sway viewpoints. ASCIT

can only do so much, and what we focus on should be the little things that make life pleasant here.

What I want to do is pretty simple, and some of these things are ideas from last year that will just take more time.

Donut, the online collection of resources, has taken several steps towards becoming useful and helpful, but unfortunately, most of these have not yet been made public. We can continue this by increasing the number of people on devteam, providing oversight to make sure that progress continues to be made, and, most importantly, promoting its features to the student body.

We brought back Interhouse, and we'll work towards making sure it continues next year. Everyone did a great job making it happen, and the trust we've earned will hopefully prevent Interhouse from disappearing again.

I'd also like to see a reorganization of the BoD. It's been several years since the last one, and I think it's time we look to see if we're the most efficient group that we can be.

After seeing Jon Senn in action this past year, I'd really like to see someone from the Tech on the Board in an oversight position. I'd also like to have more interactions with the Caltech Y Excomm, who do a ton of great work for the community.

Also, I think the "at Large" positions need to be reevaluated. Chris W. and Nate D. did great jobs, but I think the definitions of their positions on the Board have a lot of problems. There are no assigned tasks for those positions, so Chris W. was forced to do either busywork or sitting around, while being increasingly frustrated the whole time. It's a bummer, and he deserved better from the position. So hopefully, we can improve that for future years.

Thanks for giving me the chance to be IHC Chair over the past year. I'd like to do more for the school, whether as ASCIT prez or not, we'll see.

### Vice-Presidential candidate runs unopposed

**BY: MIKE GRINOLDS**

Fellow students, let me say first that I am disappointed to be the sole candidate for ASCIT Vice President. Everyone values the impact that the Honor System has on our daily lives, and as the Honor System is self-governing, it is our responsibility as students to protect and perpetuate its ideals.

I am by no means disappointed with the student body for not running for BoC chair, but rather at how insurmountable the responsibilities of the position have become. The ASCIT Vice President is, in reality, two difficult and distinct jobs combined to form an overwhelming jumble of duties that no mere mortal can possibly hope to complete.

On one hand, the VP is responsible for the enforcement of Honor System violations; he or she guides BoC cases from start to finish. On the other, the logistics of

preserving the Honor Code through promotion, education, and changing implementation are arguably more important VP duties to the community. As any former BoC chair will concede, there is simply no way to get everything necessary done without flaming out.

It is completely understandable why there would be few people willing to run for BoC chair; drastic changes in the position need to be made to ensure qualified, dedicated Honor System representation in the future.

I am running for BoC chair because I know that I can work intensely towards implementing a long term solution to this problem while also preserving the integrity of the Honor Code.

I have served on the BoC over the past two years as both a rep at large and an active past rep. From this experience, I have complete confidence in my ability to lead cases in a way that is the most fair to both defendants and to the Caltech community.

Aside from running cases, my dedication and understanding of the Honor Code will allow me to best transition its leadership organization to a more stable form.

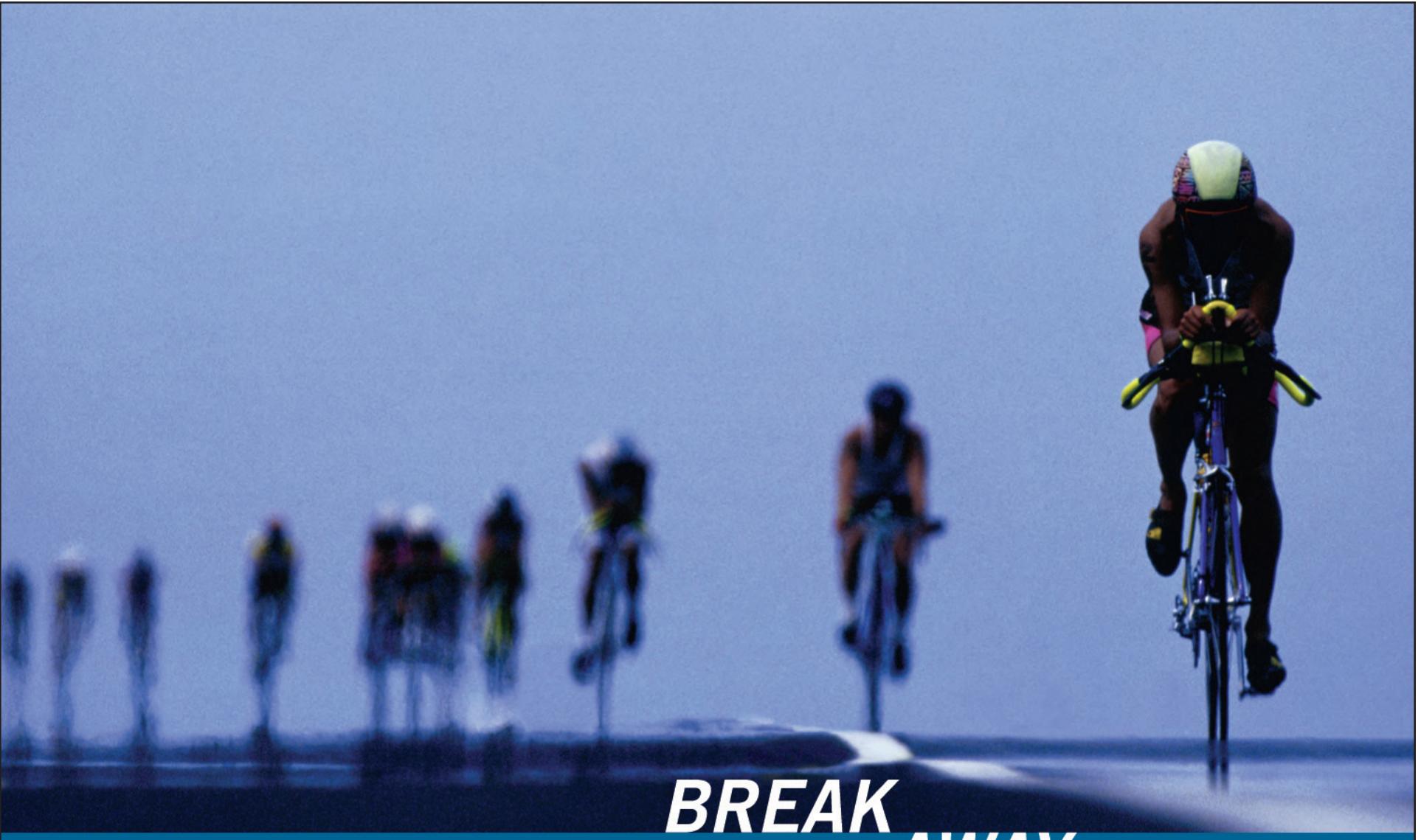
Specifically, the Honor Code committee is drafting language for an ASCIT bylaw change to restructure the BoC and CRC leadership and instate a new position of "Honor Chair". The Honor Chair would absorb the non-case duties of the BoC chair and would focus his or her efforts on promoting the Honor System to the entire Caltech community. He or she would oversee both the BoC and the CRC, which would greatly unify academic and non-academic Honor System violations so that enforcement could be as fair and consistent as possible.

In addition to modifying the BoC's leadership structure, I also strongly feel that there are too few eligible BoC reps. Adding one or two more at large reps or allowing IHC Chair and ASCIT President to serve could help alleviate some of the shortages I

have observed in recent cases.

Finally, one of the most ubiquitous complaints I found in reading the Honor Code survey comments was the desire for the BoC to be more transparent. I would never be willing to divulge information which could violate the confidentiality of defendants or witnesses, but the board could improve in communicating procedures and general outcomes. I will make certain to publicly and centrally release relevant statistics, procedures, and realistic sample cases.

These changes to the implementation of the Honor Code are crucial to the community, and while these are being undertaken, it is additionally important to continue to run the BoC in a fair and consistent manner. I feel that I am one of several capable people for this job, but I am the only one who can dedicate the time and effort to this pursuit. Hence, I implore you to allow me the chance to best serve the Caltech community by electing me to ASCIT Vice President.



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# Caltech Ponders EA Policy

BY: HAROLD MARTIN

As student debate surrounding the issue escalates, Caltech moves closer to announcing whether it will retain its current Early Action (EA) program. The Faculty Board has already submitted a recommendation to Caltech President Jean-Lou Chameau, who is expected to make an announcement on the issue within the next few weeks.

The reconsideration of the long standing EA policies was triggered by announce-

ment by Harvard and Princeton last September that they would discontinue their early application programs. One of the Admissions Office's concerns is that, since Harvard and Princeton are among Caltech's four biggest competitors (the other two being MIT and Stanford), a sudden spike in applicants to Caltech's EA program could overwhelm the admissions staff.

"Things have changed too much," said Director of Admissions Rick Bischoff, ex-

**Quick Facts:**  
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 50% larger EA pool than three years ago

plaining why Caltech needed to respond to Harvard and Princeton's changes. He estimated that Caltech might receive approximately 65%

more early applications next year should it continue its current program.

Bischoff went on to argue that these additional applications would still be from students for whom Harvard or Princeton were their first choice schools. "We don't want to serve as backup to people for whom Harvard and Princeton are first choice," he said. One result of receiving such a large number of applicants, and scaling acceptances appropriately, would be a dramatic drop in yield and a stretching of recruitment resources.

A significant concern in the debate over possible changes in the Caltech EA policy is its ability to compete with other schools for top quality applicants. Caltech enrolls 34% of its overall admits, for instance, while MIT enrolls approximately 60% of its admits. Bischoff admits that canceling Caltech's EA program while MIT continued its own EA program could be a strategic loss.

Although a policy change could be announced as early as this week, Bischoff did encourage students to contact him with their thoughts on the matter.

## How to Work a Career Fair

BY: CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

DRESS NICE. When going to a wedding dressing up a little shows respect for the couple and the ceremony. Career Fairs are similar. Dressing nice shows respect, seriousness, and good manners to the employer. Tip: Men should wear dark slacks and a long sleeve button shirt (neatly pressed!). Women should wear a dark skirt (or nice slacks) and a button down blouse. For financial companies also put on a tie or scarf. Some students like to wear a sports coat which helps them stand out in the crowd. Employers appreciate it. First impressions are based on a three-second glance at dress, grooming, and neatness. Make it a good impression.

HAVE SEVERAL RESUMES. Nearly every company (about 80 companies will attend) collects resumes for follow-up. Often, they will put a mark on the resumes they are especially interested in. Don't run out. Students often don't know what a company does, or what opportunities there are, until they talk with them at the Career Fair. So have lots of resumes to distribute. Sometimes companies actually fill on-campus interview schedules on the spot.

EXPLORE. Students can learn a lot of information by



The Caltech career fair, is a chance to ditch the SURF and enter the wide world of high-paying industry. Above: MIT career fair.

Photo courtesy of MIT

talking to company representatives, many of whom are alumni. It's a good time to compare, contrast and evaluate. Try to envision what it would be like working for that firm or in the job they are trying to fill. Take time to wander and talk to several firms. It is an important part of a college education.

PREPARE. Prepare the elevator speech and some questions ahead of time for the companies. The Career Fair is actually a low-impact interview. In just a couple of minutes, companies can

often tell whether they want to see that student again. So prepare questions ahead of time. Also, prepare the elevator speech. Employers expect students to know what kind of job, industry or career they are interested in exploring (even if they really are just exploring). Students must be able to name their top 4-5 skills. It is a slam-dunk if students can explain why their skills and the company's jobs make a good match. Practice the two minute elevator speech and job questions in front of

a mirror.

FOLLOW-UP. Collect business cards. Immediately after talking with a firm, jot down a note on the back of the card as a reminder of the conversation. Then send a follow-up email that evening reaffirming interest in the firm and asking for an interview. Some companies will not even interview students if they don't get a follow-up note. It sets students apart from the others.

Career Fair company profiles are available on the

Career Development Center Website. Register on MonsterTRAK through the CDC website. Registrants get email notices about jobs, internships, speakers, workshops, etc. Don't miss out.

Caltech Spring Career Fair  
January 24th 10:30am  
- 2:30 pm at Brown Gym

## Companies in Attendance

Advertising.com  
Aero Vironmnet Inc.  
Aerospace Corporation  
Alfred Mann Foundation  
Alliancebernstein  
Anritsu Company  
Applied Minds  
Arete Associates  
Ata Engineering, Inc.  
Big Tent Design, Inc.  
Boeing Space And Intelligence System  
Caltech Alumni Fund  
Capital Group Companies  
Central Intelligence Agency  
City Of La-pw Bureau Of Sanitation  
Clarifi  
Cna Corporation

Countrywide Financial Corporation  
Dallas Semiconductor / Maxim  
Deluxe Digital Studios  
Earthlink, Inc.  
Emc Corporation  
Ewt, Llc  
Exponent  
Farmers Insurance Group  
Finisar  
Fox Interactive Media  
Fulcrum Microsystems  
Gold Zeppelin, Llc.  
Goldman Sachs & Company  
Heat, Light, & Sound Research, Inc.  
Hitachi  
Hrl Laboratories, Llc

Idealab  
Ixia  
Jpmorgan  
Juniper Networks  
Kbc Financial Products  
Kla-tencor  
Lam Research  
Laserfiche  
Materia, Inc.  
Mediadefender  
Meridianlink  
Microsoft Corporation  
Mit Lincoln Laboratory  
N&k Technology, Inc.  
Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Novartis Institute For Functional Genomics, Inc.  
Numerica Corporation  
Nvidia

Optical Research Associates  
Oracle  
Oshyn, Inc.  
Osisoft, Inc.  
Oversee.net  
Parasoft Corporation  
Pelco Engineering  
High Tech  
Portblue Corporation  
Primarion, Inc.  
Quorum Systems, Inc  
Qvt Financial Lp  
Raytheon Company  
Riverbed Technology  
Robert Bosch Corporation-rtc  
Schlumberger Technology Corp  
Siemens Medical Solutions Diagnostics

Signaldemand, Inc.  
Southwest Research Institute  
Space Exploration Technologies  
Susquehanna International Group, Llp  
Tata Consultancy Services  
Teach For America  
Topix  
Two Sigma Investments  
U.s. Navy Officer Programs  
United States Marine Corps  
Western Asset Management Company  
Wildcat Discovery Technologies  
Yellowpages.com

# Women's Team One of a Kind

BY: NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

As I looked around the training room, I noticed several women basketball players enter. Some of them went onto the tables and were helped by Erin and Andre, the trainers, while others hopped into the whirlpool, allowing the ice cold water numb their pain for a little while. Looking into their faces, some of which were transformed by the discomfort of the exercises and stretches, I saw many things. I saw dedication, focus, and determination. Exhaustion, toughness, and acceptance of pain. Yet I had seen all of those traits before in athletes from other Caltech teams, athletes who also practiced six days a week, suffered through injuries, drained themselves during practices and meets, and dedicated much of themselves to their sports. I have seen them in athletes from teams that, unlike the women's basketball team, had not been able to win a conference game. Unsatisfied with my shallow observations, I pondered what it was that allowed the team to do the impossible – defeat a SCIAC team.

I remembered an e-mail that I received from the basketball coach Sandra Marbut in November, before the season even started. It is safe to say that at that time there were no high expectations for the women, and yet Coach Marbut wrote, "This team is special. It's the group I have waited my whole career to work with. It is a group that I admire and respect every day."

Although it is impossible to single out a specific reason that this team is different from the past teams, Marbut attributes

much of its success to the new tactic of non-standard recruiting. Although no player was given special privileges through this practice, Marbut worked to identify young women who were potentially going to come to Caltech, and built relationships with them prior to their admission decisions. This way, the incoming student athletes had an added incentive to choose Caltech over other colleges – a welcoming and friendly basketball program.

This year, two of such incomers have stirred a lot of energy on the court. Amanda Bozovich, a transfer from Occidental, scored 10 points during the winning Pomona-Pitzer game, and contributes her experience as a letterwinner on a SCIAC-champion team to the Beavers. Lisa Yee, a freshman, was a leading scorer in the Northern League during her time in high school. She scored 22 points in the Pomona-Pitzer game.

The pillars and drive of the team spirit are, however, captains Rene Davis and Lindsay King. Marbut said, "Both of them have had an incredible impact on the team and they've been the ones who established that we could do this. [...] They both have had options to play in other places, but they chose to come here and develop our program. They've learned to be really confident in themselves and accepted their leadership."

Freshman Diana Dou shares Marbut's view. She wrote in an e-mail, "Rene and Lindsay are really motivated. They're great friends off the court and supportive on and off the court. On the court, they have the most energy of anyone out there, and can

often change the tide of a game through sheer force of will. They fit really well into their roles as team captains and I believe they inspire and motivate all of us to dig a little deeper every time we feel fatigued."

King leads the conference in blocked shots and holds several Caltech records, including most career 3FG and blocks made, as well as most 3FG, free throw %, most blocks made during a season, and most points, FG, and 3FG scored during a single game. Davis, who ranks 12th in the conference in scoring and 2nd in rebounding, scored 28 points in the Pomona-Pitzer game and earned the title of SCIAC Athlete of the Week the last week.

Other players on the team include Diana Dou, Kathryn Gunn, Lea Kunesh, Meghan Kelleher, Julianne Gould, Christine Woodin, and Raquel Martinez. The truly unique aspect of the team, which consists of people with a wide range of experiences playing basketball, is, according to Marbut, the relationship between the players. "It's a very close team, they are always there for each other," said Marbut. "All of those women who are friends, working toward the same thing – it's a powerful thing. We pride ourselves – we are a family."

In addition to each other, the players also had to rely on faith in themselves to reach the victory. "We've lost 50 games in a row, and it's very hard to get back up, but we kept believing that it was possible to win for no empirical evidence whatsoever," said Marbut. She added that the fans were instrumental in the victory,



Lisa Yee plays as a guard for the women's basketball team.

as the women "were getting tired, but the fans were getting them through. That 6th person [on the team] can be everybody on the stands and add all that energy."

The team is coached by Sandra Marbut, who has been at Caltech for four years. Dou said about Marbut, "I don't know of anyone who has more patience, optimism, and experience in basketball. She's also got a sense of humor and always tries to keep the game fun and the team more like a family than anything else."

Marbut is helped by Kelly Gordon, who is the Beavers' Assistant Coach along with Sarah Hunyadi, a Caltech alumnus, and Sarah Ferguson, a junior, who is the team's manager.

The Beavers will face LIFE Pacific College on Tue., Jan. 23, and will have two consecutive home conference games this week. They will play University of La Verne on Thur., Jan. 25, and Cal Lutheran University on Saturday, Jan. 27.

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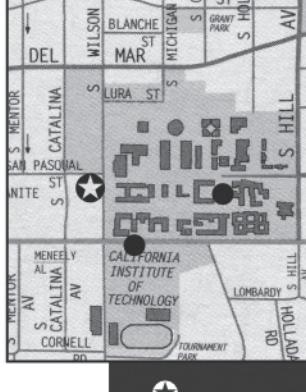
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## It's Your Move

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# NFL Championship Games

BY: TONY FALK

By now you've probably noticed that I've predicted every NFL game in this years playoffs perfectly, including the score, and are probably wondering how I do it. I'll give you a little bit of insight into how I pick the games, and then go ahead and predict this weeks games between the Chicago Bears and the United States Saints, and the Indianapolis Colts and the United State Patriots.

My first step towards predicting the games is a simple one. I look at the teams that NFL.com claims will be playing in the games, and decide on how accurate their predictions are. After I decide which teams to pick I go into a deep trance and watch (from every camera angle, and in person) all of the games each team has played during the past year as a ghost, so as to gauge each teams strengths and weaknesses.

I compile this information into punch-card form and enter it into my mega-computer<sup>1</sup> which computes the scores of each game. Unfortunately I purchased a portion of the mega-computer's RAMs and gigglebits in Europe,<sup>2</sup> so it usually predicts low scores<sup>3</sup> which I have to multiply by secret factors based on the exchange rate between Canadian dollars and the Euro.

To insure that these scores are

accurate I make a potion using Gatorade, Dick Vermeil's tears and some hair taken from the player on each team making the third most in the current year, not including bonuses. I feed this potion to a number of squirrels, which are then able to play out each game in its entirety. In most cases the two score predictions are accurate, and if they don't match, I just make a score up.

The first game of the day will be the NFC championship between the Chicago Bears and the Saints, who I predict will be referred to as the New Orleans Saints, despite being America's Team because of the way they've uplifted the spirit of America. The game features one of the league's best offenses (the Saints) and the leagues best defenses (whoever Rex Grossman is throwing interceptions to) and will feature stars such as Reggie Bush<sup>4</sup> and Drew Brees for the Saints and Brian Urlacher and Mike Ditka for the Bears.

The game will start slowly, but finish with three Bears TDs in the fourth quarter as the Chicago defense realizes it's much easier to play against the Saints defense if a team exploits their weakness of being the Saints defense. The Saints will score only three times, the first on a touchdown throw by Drew Brees to Marques Colston while the Bears defense was distracted by Reggie Bush.

The Saint's other two scores

will come from a 90 yard scamper by Reggie Bush and a Safety by Drew Brees after the Saint's pro-bowl quarterback decides he is tired of the ball and throws it away while standing in the end-zone. The Saints will miss out on a fourth score on a missed field goal due to the fact that it is kicked by Billy Cundiff who will be kicking as a replacement for the Saints regular season kicker, fullback Mike Karney. The final score will be 39-14 Chicago, although Reggie Bush will walk away with an NFC Championship MVP and a Super Bowl ring because of everything he's done for his community.

The second game of the day will be the big one between AFC rivals the Indianapolis Colts and the New England Patriots. The Patriots have won their last 471 playoff meetings with the Colts. This is probably because Bill Belichick always creates a strong game plan and has a "spider sense" that allows him to sometimes predict the near future, and Tom Brady's good looks often allow him to lead game winning drives at the end of games as defender's begin to succumb to his rugged charm. Luckily, the Colts team that has often struggled in the postseason will have two factors that weren't present in previous games.

First, Bob<sup>6</sup> Sanders, the all-galaxy safety and freedom fighter, who stops the run with his speed

and hard hitting style, and stops the run with his intimidating glare and ability to bend space-time, will return to the Colt's defense, striking fear into the muscular and stubby Tom Brady's heart.<sup>7</sup>

Secondly, Jim Mora Sr. will return to assist current Colt's coach Tony Dungy, despite having been fired in 2001 for introducing the Colt's to Rock and Roll. The Patriots will manage to build a 21-3 lead, despite the presence of these two brave souls, using trick plays such as a fumble into the end-zone recovered by an offensive lineman and the old "hook and lateral" in which a team uses a "hook" or catchy tune to force Peyton Manning to throw an interception or "lateral" that will be returned for a touchdown<sup>8</sup>.

Peyton Manning will strike back by throwing a touch down pass to a rather hefty defensive tackle, running the ball in and using the Patriot's own "fumble into the end-zone where an offensive lineman recovers" play. The game will end when Tom Brady throws an uncharacteristic interception when driving for a game winning touchdown, choking the game away as he has never done before.

He will be quoted after the game as saying "I don't want to be a bad teammate, but there were some 'holding onto a lead' issues. Which probably come from the fact that our best wide receiver wasn't good enough to be picked up as a backup by any NFL team for most of the season this year.

I mean, come on, Jabar Gaffney? The guy is terrible!" Reggie Bush will be awarded the AFC Championship MVP for all he has done for his community.

(Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Which is not buried beneath the parking structure below the North Fields, so don't even bother looking there. Especially if you're the FBI.

<sup>2</sup> Last week it predicted that the Bears would beat the Cowboys 2 to nil, which isn't even a number in America, and that the Lions would tie the Tottenham Foxsparrows by a score of 2-2, which is false as the Lions can neither make the playoffs nor score 2 points in a game.

<sup>3</sup> Most squirrels have trouble learning to play modern football, and still believe the forward pass is illegal.

<sup>4</sup> The Number Two pick in the NFL draft, but the Number One pick in the helping his community by catching a large number of passes for a rookie running back.

<sup>5</sup> Colston will go down in NFL history as the first rookie to be the best receiver on a playoff team to be disqualified from rookie of the year voting because he went to Hofstra. If that is even a real college.

<sup>6</sup> Bob in this case is short for Demond. I'm not even joking.

<sup>7</sup> Tom Brady is muscular and stubby, not his heart, as far as I know. Only supermodels and well behaved goats are allowed to see Tom's heart.

<sup>8</sup> This play is actually known as a "Statue of Liberty" play when the Patriots run it, just as an outside run is known as a "Liberty Bell" and a play action pass is known as a "14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution"

## XKCD Comics by Randall Munroe

