

# THE CALIFORNIA TECH



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DECEMBER 4, 2006



Pavel Batrachenko, 18, participates in a snowball fight during Dabney Hovse's Inuit Freedom Day

## Community Grieves for the Loss of Pavel

BY: CHANDRA BARNETT

The Caltech community has been shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Pavel Batrachenko, 20, on Sunday, Nov. 26.

Pavel, a junior physics major and member of Dabney Hovse, had recently returned from a brief leave of absence. During his stay at Caltech he distinguished himself both academically and personally, and will be greatly missed.

The son of two physicists, Pavel's interest in science and math began at a young age. Before moving to the United States in 1999, he participated in the Moscow mathematical olympiads, tying for first place in both sixth and eighth grades, and spent a year at a special school focusing on mathematics.

Arriving in Rochester, MN in time to start ninth grade, he took his first high school physics class and soon discovered a new passion. By his junior year in high school he had taken first place in the AAPT Physics Bowl, and joined the U.S. Physics Team, which also made top five in the Physics Olympiad.

Pavel's career in competitive physics culminated in his win at the 2003 International Physics Olympiad (IPhO). Senior Ben

Golub roomed with Pavel during the summer before their freshman

year, as he studied for the IPhO, often working on past Olym pia d problems for six hours in a night.

"The happiest I've ever seen Pavel was after he won the IPhO. There was this great big smile he had, and usually he was good at suppressing it, but people kept coming up and congratulating him, and every time someone said 'Hey, congratulations,' that smile would come out. He just couldn't keep it down."

~Ben Golub

every time someone said 'Hey, congratulations,' that smile would come out. He just couldn't keep it down."

At Caltech, Pavel joined Dabney Hovse, where his friends knew him as a quiet but brilliant student. "No question," says an ex-roommate, Randall Wald, "he was the smartest guy any of us ever met." Although his studies at first offered him little time to indulge in non-academic pursuits, he enjoyed hiking and would occasionally find time to spend the day exploring the foothills north of town.

He was also an avid gamer, and until the ban on computer games, he was a fixture in the Mod 8 computer lab. Golub also remem-

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## Former Techers Arrested in Aftermath of Shopping Cart Incident

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

Two Caltech alumni and one former Caltech student were arrested last Tuesday for alleged involvement in what some are calling a prank gone awry that seriously injured a Pasadena woman.

Cesar Desolar, 22, Jessica Alvarenga, 21, and Manuel Garcia, 24, allegedly hoisted a shopping cart on a flagpole in front of the Ralph's Market on the 300 block of west Colorado Boulevard that fell 60 feet onto an employee, breaking her neck.

According to a police statement, the cart crashed on Ralph's Market employee Shantie Maraj on the morning of Saturday, Oct 21 when she untied the rope to raise the flag, a job she had done daily.

According to the Associated Press, Maraj suffered cervical spine fractures, but shows no sign of paralysis or lasting neurological effects.

"I thank the lord for my recovery," said Maraj to the Whittier Daily News when she was released from the hospital last Tuesday, just

hours before the announcement of the arrests of the three suspects. "I thank my children, my co-workers, my customers, my insurance and the police department."

Desolar and Garcia are Caltech alumni from the classes of 2004 and 2005 respectively. Alvarenga transferred from Caltech at the beginning of last year to a California state school and was most recently working in the Los Angeles area, according to Ricketts House president Isaac Garcia-Munoz. All three were members of Ricketts House.

Public relations officer of the Pasadena Police Janet Pope Givens said there was no evidence to suggest that Caltech pranking etiquette was attempted, such as leaving a note or making the prank reversible.

"It is reasonable to conclude that if we had that kind of evidence, we would have a lead earlier in the investigation," said Givens.

Caltech Public Relations released a statement last week that "the actions described by the Pasadena Police are altogether inconsistent with Caltech's tradition

of practical jokes and pranks," but that "those arrested are entitled to a presumption of innocence and we will not comment further."

The administration is not sure what effect the shopping cart incident will have on Caltech pranksters.

Said John Hall, Dean of Students and Acting Vice President for Student Affairs, "At the least, we should review our protocol with this tragic result in mind and reassure ourselves that reckless stunts can never take place."

The three people arrested are charged with assault with a deadly weapon, a crime punishable in California by up to four years in state prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

"The sentence is up to the judicial system," said Givens. "A lot depends on intent. Like in an auto accident, if you were to admit it was an accident at the scene, there may be less punitive measures taken than if it were a hit and run."

Alvarenga was released on a \$30,000 bond on Thursday, while Desolar and Garcia were arraigned on Friday.

## Preparations Continue for South House Reopening Party

BY: HAROLD MARTIN

With just over a month left until the South House reopening party, which has become widely known simply as Interhouse, excitement is building around campus and plans and funding for the party are being finalized.

Funding for the parties has been acquired for the parties such that, according to ASCIT Social Director Chris Gonzales, "(The parties) should not cost the houses one penny." Although ASCIT missed the initial deadline to apply for Moore-Hufstedler Funds (MHF), a special MHF meeting has been

called to discuss proposals related to the party. In addition, Housing has donated \$20,000 towards party construction.

Tom Mannion, Assistant V.P. of Campus Life, has purchased 60 tickets to the renowned Rose Parade to give to students who return early from winter break to help with Interhouse construction.

### Party Themes

Ricketts and Lloyd: Post-apocalypse

Blacker and Avery: Soviet Russia

Fleming and Ruddock: Neverneverland

Dabney and Page: Speakeasy

## President Chameau Attends Midnight Donuts



President Chameau speaks with several members of the ASCIT Board of Directors during Thursday night's Midnight Donuts. Chameau had intended to help distribute donuts himself, but as his flight into LAX arrived at 10pm, he arrived moments too late.

Photo by Jonathan Tsai

# An Editorial on Freedom

Is gambling immoral? Is homosexuality an abomination? Is it immoral to eat animals? To eat household pets? What about cannibalism? Is drug use immoral? How about taking Tylenol? Is premarital sex immoral? Is it immoral to dishonor thy father, or to covet thy neighbor's livestock?

Each of these acts is alleged to be immoral by some assortment of the citizens of the United States. Which of them should be banned by the government?

How likely is it that all of my readers agree on whether each of these potential vices is worthy of censure?

Virtually every action has, at one point in time and in one society, been regarded by a majority of the individuals in that society to be immoral.

In Alabama it is illegal to play Dominoes on Sunday. In California it is illegal for women to drive while wearing a house coat. In Florida unmarried women may not parachute on Sundays. In New York a \$25 fine may be levied for flirting.

More seriously, until 1870, black men could not legally vote in the United States; whereas,

slavery was widely practiced until 1865. From 1920 to 1933 the United States prohibited the manufacture, transportation, import, export, and sale of alcoholic beverages. Prior to 1920, women were denied the right to vote in this country. United States history is plagued with bans on specific works of literature or specific authors.

More recently, until 2003, consenting adults of any gender participating in any form of non-vaginal sex could be imprisoned in Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia. In Idaho the sentence for such a crime was imprisonment for five years to life. One might counter that such laws are never enforced, but in fact such laws have surprisingly far reaching consequences. Consider a 1997 incident in which a child in Texas was removed from his foster mother's care because the woman was "living in sin" with another woman, which a child-welfare official contended was a criminal act.

When our society can prohibit any of a given era's so-called

vices on a whim, we are left bereft of our dearly held freedoms. How would you feel if, for example, over the next 20 years, an enormous wave of religious fundamentalists immigrated to the United States, and as the new majority proceeded to enact laws which stripped women of the right to vote or even to drive automobiles?

One of the primary founding principals of our country is the protection of minority rights, and these rights are essential to the core of our notions of freedom. Everyone surely finds themselves holding a minority opinion or belief in some respect... we all perform some activity which others (perhaps not in our own society or era) would deem vile and wicked.

Are some things immoral by an absolute standard? Perhaps. I certainly don't have an answer, nor has a universally satisfactory answer ever been proposed to me. Without a generally accepted uniform code of morality, the laws of a free society must be based upon protecting the rights of its citizens.

Which laws best protect these rights and how to best solve

the conflicting nature of various rights is a monumental task without a unique solution. But what is clear is that our rights cannot be maximized by arbitrarily restrictive laws based upon a supposedly infallible code of morality.

To quote the immortal words of Thomas Jefferson in our Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident... That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted... That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principals..."

Our nation was founded upon the ideal of freedom and the concept of inalienable rights. Our forefathers fought for eight years and sacrificed the lives of 25,000 soldiers for the cause of Liberty. I hope that our nation one day soon is fortunate enough to return to and embrace the path towards the glorious principles upon which it was founded.

Sincerely,  
Jon Senn

# Corrections

In the Nov. 6 edition of *The Tech*, we included a photo of the Lloyd crest in the Lloyd dining hall with Cathy Jurca's commentary piece explaining why a new mural policy was being created.

The caption for this photo may have misinformed readers since the proposed policy at the time of publication stated that murals were prohibited from dining halls. The proposed rules at the time of publication also had no requirement for administrative approval before a mural was painted.

Additional errors were made in the wording since it was not a "new mural policy" but only a proposal (which it still is at this moment). Students interested in more details about the current proposal should contact the IHC Chair Craig Montuori or the Master of Student Houses, Cathy Jurca.

The teaser on the front page of the Nov. 20 issue for the Borat review may have offended some of our readers as well. It used a quote from Borat without clearly indicating the source in the teaser. The quote was not meant to be taken as any sort of racial attack (in fact, two of our editors are Jewish themselves), and we sincerely apologize for giving any of our readers cause to feel otherwise.

## ASCIT MINUTES

ASCIT Board of Directors  
Minutes from the Side Room in Chandler  
Wednesday, November 29, 2006

Present Officers: Todd Gingrich, Jean Sun, Vickie Pon, Chris Watson, Jon Senn, RJ Krom, Nate Donnellan  
Guest: Matt Glassman

### 1. Tech Camera

\* Matt Glassman came to ask for funding for a camera for the Tech photographers. The Tech does not have a camera, so the Tech photographers must rely on their personal cameras for taking pictures, which is very limiting. The purchase of a nice camera that can be kept in the Tech office or with the head photographer would be a great item for the newspaper to have.

\* Matt said the body of the camera they are looking at costs less than \$650, but the lenses could cost \$1K+. The Tech staff has been looking into

### 2. Movie Library

\* The movie library is in Craig's room and needs to be moved to the Winnett Center. Todd said it turns out that the elevator doesn't need a key to work, but a key is needed to access the storage room next to the recording studio. For now, security will be asked to help open and lock the storage room.

### 3. Midnight Donuts - Thurs., Nov. 30th

\* Midnight donuts are this Thursday! Chameau is going to come if his flight comes in on time.

\* All members of the BoD need

to help set up starting at 11:15 pm. Gonzo will get the OJ and milk. Trash cans need to be brought out from the North Houses to facilitate clean up. Vickie and RJ will get 6-ft tables from the Caltech Y. If a member of the BoD needs to leave early, they need to report to Todd when and why s/he is leaving.

**4. Budget Update**  
\* Jon handed out the current ASCIT budget for the BoD to review. The only parts that will change soon are that the Dev Team and Tech salaries and bonuses will be distributed, and 2nd term club funding checks will go out (~\$4K in club funding).

\* We need to certain groups know that they should spend their money soon.

**5. Other News**  
\* There will be one sports BBQ next term, and the BoD will help out more.

spondence that there is at least one more non-Lloydie member in the Home Theater Club. Kevin was out of town today, so we will wait for him to come to our next meeting to ask about funding.

### 2. Movie Library

\* Craig has the movie library set up and at the Coffeehouse. Storage is still a problem, and Craig is taking care of it.

### 3. Midnight Donuts - Thurs., Nov. 30th

\* Midnight donuts will be on Thursday, Nov. 30th! Location: Outside of Chandler like last term. Next term, midnight donuts will be on the Olive Walk like old tradition.

\* PRESIDENT CHAMEAU has told Todd that if he can make it on time,

he will help pass out donuts!

\* We will discuss clean-up next week.

### 4. Interim ARC Chair

\* Excomm will be doing Interim ARC Chair interviews soon. Four people signed up for the job.

### SAC

\* Todd reported that the Student Activities Center (SAC) in the South Houses is "in unacceptable shape." Craig said, "The IHC agrees."

\* None of the rooms are usable as of yet due to a lack of electricity and ventilation, even though the plan was to have at least a few rooms ready to use by move-in time. Todd said that hopefully the SAC will be in good shape eventually.

already allotted for them. This will be discussed more later.

### 3. Movie Library

\* The movie library is DONE being set-up! All we need now is for Watson and Craig to get the elevator key.

### 4. Midnight Donuts

\* Midnight donuts will be on either Wed. or Thurs. of Week 10. Todd said President Chameau once expressed interest in helping hand out donuts, so he will see if Chameau is available and willing help out the BoD on midnight donuts night!

### 5. Interim ARC Chair

\* Because Csilla will be studying abroad next term, Excomm needs to select an Interim ARC Chair for winter term.

\* Vickie will put up an Interim ARC Chair sign-up sheet on the glass cases along the Olive Walk.

### 6. MOSH Faculty-Student Lunches

\* Vickie relayed a message from Csilla: Cathy Jurca wants to start bi-weekly faculty-student lunches where a handful of faculty every other week can eat lunch with any undergrads interested in eating with them (for free), possibly in Avery Library. Cathy is looking for any students who are interested in helping plan these lunches. So far, there is one person interested, but it'd be great to have a couple more student help out in initiating the planning. Vickie asked the BoD members if anyone is interested. No one spoke up, but we'll keep our eyes and ears open for other people who might be interested and tell them to email the MOSH if they're interested.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Pon  
ASCIT Secretary

### 2. Multihouse Funding

\* A lot of Houses have not used their Multihouse funding this term!

\* Todd proposed just giving Houses their Multihouse funding instead of waiting for each House to come to the meetings and ask for the money that's

wanted.

\* Vickie will put up an Interim ARC Chair sign-up sheet on the glass cases along the Olive Walk.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Pon  
ASCIT Secretary

### 3. Multihouse Funding

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## Techers Advance to World Finals in Programming Contest

BY: NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

Working hours straight to solve six problems may sound mundane and not at all exciting, but for three students spending a bulk of Saturday programming has finally paid off. Po-Ru Loh, Paul Nelson, and Hwan-seung Yeo represented Caltech at the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) and placed first in the regional level of the competition. They will compete at the international level that will take place in Tokyo, Japan on March 12-16, 2007.

Loh, Nelson, and Yeo were not the only ones from Tech who participated in the contest. Two other Caltech teams have also placed in the top ten out of 73 teams that competed. Kenneth Heafield and Seung Woo Shin competed without their teammate, Eui Woong Lee, but still placed third, closely following the second place team from USC. Caltech's third team, comprised of Michael Kolodrubetz,

Eugeniu Plamadeala, and Ben Zax, placed ninth.

This year is 31st that ACM ICPC, sponsored by the IBM, is held. At the competition, each team is given a computer and is told to solve as many of the six given problems as fast as possible, with penalties implemented for incorrect solutions. Participation at the regional level that Caltech competes at is open to teams from universities of Southern California and Southern Nevada, and Caltech has traditionally done very well. For the last five years, CIT has earned first place and moved on to the international level, which has made it a favorite to win.

Curiously, there were more than three teams at the contest that carried the name of Caltech. In addition to CIT's own A, B, and C teams, there was also a team registered as Caltech D, which was in no way affiliated with Caltech. Caltech D turned out to be a team from the University of California, Riverside, named so after UCR found out that there were only three teams from CIT that were competing,

instead of the usual four.

This year, the location of the international contest provided an additional incentive for teams to do well. Nelson said in an e-mail, "I've studied Japanese for a while, but an out-of-pocket trip there would be very expensive. I joined the team when I found out that the world finals were taking place in Tokyo, and that I'd win a free trip there if I could get on the team and win the regionals."

The Tokyo level is expected to be much more challenging than the regional, with 85 teams, selected from thousands from all parts of the world, competing for the top spot. Loh commented, "the level of competition is completely different. We are competing against the best teams from the whole world. There, we are definitely not the favorites."

Although only one team is moving on to compete internationally, some members of the other two teams have also found the experience beneficial. "I enjoyed hanging out with cool upperclassmen and making random nerdy jokes. It was also nice to be challenged," said Zax.

## Pavel's Friends Reminisce

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bers his active participation in informal tennis matches and pickup games of Ultimate Frisbee. "He was the kind of guy who's happy doing whatever is going on around him," said Golub. "He always just seemed to be enjoying himself."

Although gaming became an increasingly large part of his life, junior Nick Ma remembers that Pavel's unusual talent for physics allowed him to continue to excel academically.

"One time I remember Pavel's TA for Ph7 coming in, and saying 'Pavel, you need to get all your labs to me by the end of the week,'" Ma related. "And of

course Pavel had been to all the lab sessions, but he hadn't written a single thing down. So what he does, is he sits down, and it took him about 10 hours, and he just did all of Ph7, straight through without stopping, and handed them in at the end of the day." His natural abilities in physics earned him an Upperclass Merit Award, a merit-based scholarship awarded to just a few students each year.

A memorial service for Pavel was held Sunday, near his home in Rochester. Students Nick Ma, Ning Bao, and Daniel Poon, all of Dabney House, accompanied by Associate Dean Barbara Green, made the trip to Minnesota to attend and will return today.

## Announcements

### Caltech Student Wins Marshall Scholarship

BY: LAUREN STOLPHER

Emma Schmidgall '07 has been named one of 40 Marshall Scholars in the United States and will study in Great Britain starting next fall. The Marshall Scholarship is worth over \$60,000 and funds two years of post B.S. study at any UK university. Yearly over 800 students compete nationally for this prestigious fellowship.

Emma is double-majoring in physics and history and intends to pursue two master's degrees, one from Cambridge University in physics (2007-08) and the other from the University of Edinburgh in science policy (2008-09). She then plans to work toward a doctorate in physics in the United States and seek a position that combines physics research and science policy.

Emma says, "I am honored by my selection as a Marshall Scholar and look forward to my studies in Britain."

Prominent Marshall Scholars include Ray Dolby, inventor of Dolby sound systems, Thomas Everhart,

president emeritus of Caltech, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, Pulitzer Prize winning author Thomas Friedman, and Bruce Babbitt, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Emma is the first Caltech woman to be named a Marshall Scholar. Recent Caltech alumni winners include Eric Tuttle '01, ASCIT president and Vikram Mittal '03, BOC chair. Eric attended UCL on his Marshall and did neuroscience research then went on to Stanford for a law degree. Vikram did a master's degree at Oxford with a focus on aerospace. He is now in a Ph.D. program at MIT. Wei Dang '05 is currently a Marshall Scholar at Imperial College London.

Faculty Marshall Scholars include Jonas Peters of Chemistry, Ed Stolper of GPS, and Caltech alumnus Sterl Phinney of PMA.

Students interested in applying for a Marshall Scholarship during the fall of their senior year should contact Lauren Stolper, Director of Fellowships Advising and go to: <http://www.marshallscholarship.org>

## Feynman Teaching Prize Nominations Open Only Until Dec. 30

salary of the awardee.

From now until Dec. 30, members of the community may submit nomination packages to the Provost's Office to honor professors who demonstrates, in the broadest sense, unusual ability, creativity, and innovation in undergraduate and graduate classroom or laboratory teaching.

The Feynman Prize is made possible through the generosity of Ione and Robert E. Paradise, with additional contributions from Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hurt. Nominations for the Feynman Teaching Prize are welcome from faculty, students, postdoctoral scholars, staff, and alumni.

All professorial faculty of the Institute are eligible. The prize consists of a cash award of \$3,500, matched by an equivalent raise in the annual

salary of the awardee. A letter of nomination and detailed supporting material, including, but not limited to, a curriculum vitae, course syllabus or description, and supporting recommendation letters should be directed to the Feynman Prize Selection Committee, Office of the Provost, Mail Code 206-31, at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, 91125.

Additional information including guidelines for the prize and FAQ may be found at <http://provost.caltech.edu/feynman.html>. Further information can also be obtained from Stacey Scoville (626-395-6320; staceys@caltech.edu) or Karen Kerbs (626-395-6039; kkerbs@caltech.edu) in the Provost's Office.

## Now Casting - Web Entrepreneurs

A new docu-reality television show that follows the ups and downs involved in starting up a new dot com business is currently looking for someone special who's launching a website like Google or Friendster within the next two months.

Interested individuals may send an email that describes their self,

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## The Outside World



BY: HAROLD MARTIN

### World

#### New President of Mexico Sworn in Amid Hostility

On Dec. 1, rightist Felipe Calderón was sworn in as the next Mexican President, even as opposition lawmakers jeered and attempted to disrupt the inauguration.

The scene followed three days of intense protests and sit-ins on the congressional stage intended to prevent the President from being sworn in.

Immediately prior to his inauguration, brawls broke out in Congress between opposing lawmakers. The fist-fights and chair-throwing ended as Calderón's supporters secured the podium and Calderón was escorted in by a detachment of bodyguards.

The hurried ceremony did little to settle the outrage of Calderón's opponents, who claim that the election was stolen from leftist candidate López Obrador and label Calderón "a traitor to democracy."

Calderón, who won the election by less than one percentage point, has made overtures to the left, beginning with a promise to cut the salary of the President and other high-ranking officials.

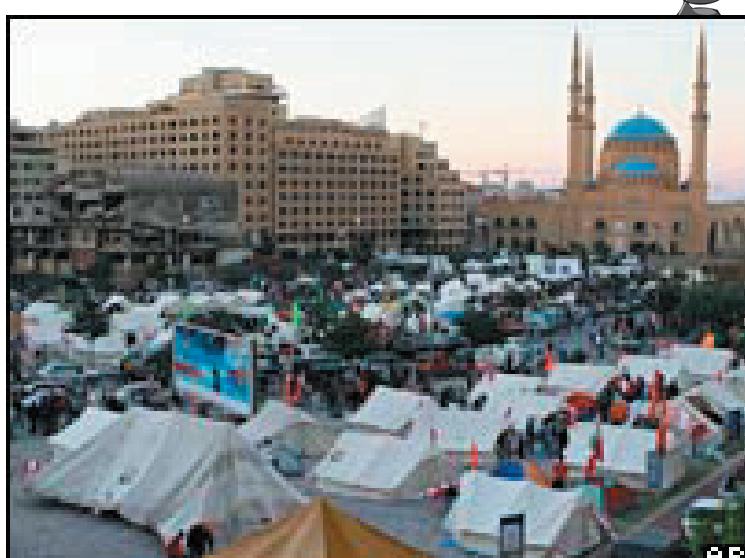
#### Hezbollah Protesters Occupy Streets of Beirut

Thousands of Hezbollah supporters have filled the streets of central Beirut in attempt to topple the government of Prime Minister Fouad Siniora and install a new government aligned with the goals of the Shi'ite Muslim group.

Siniora, backed by Saudi Arabia and various Western powers, including the U.S., France, and Germany, vowed that he would not be forced from his elected office. Hezbollah, supported by Syria and Iran, likewise declared that they would not quit their protest until Siniora was gone.

With neither side appearing ready to compromise, many Lebanese feared that the political deadlock might become a violent sectarian struggle.

Siniora insists that only parliament can change his government, although the next parlia-



Hezbollah supporters camp out in streets such as this in Beirut hoping to oust Prime Minister Siniora out of power

ment elections are not due until 2009.

#### Rumsfeld Memo Urges Changes in Iraq Strategy

Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld submitted a classified memo to the White House two days before his resignation admitting that the current U.S. strategy in Iraq was not working and that fundamental changes were needed.

"In my view it is time for a major adjustment. Clearly, what U.S. forces are currently doing in Iraq is not working well enough or fast enough," wrote Rumsfeld.

The memo also outlined in hypothetical terms the possibility of troop reductions and a shift in U.S. goals in the region.

More than 2,500 U.S. soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the U.S. invaded in 2003, and more than 140,000 U.S. soldiers still occupy the country.

#### Pope Ends Tour of Turkey with Prayer and Message of Reconciliation

Pope Benedict XVI ended his time in Turkey in silent prayer, standing next to a Muslim prelate in Istanbul's Blue Mosque and facing Mecca.

The act served to underscore the message the Pope had delivered earlier in his visit, emphasizing the need for peace between Islam and Christianity.

His first visit to a Muslim country was preceded by intense protests caused by remarks he

had made two months earlier regarding the nature of Islam, but his visit served to create some good will in Turkey.

"With the help of God, we must find the way of peace together, for the good of humanity," said the Pope.

#### Nation

#### Unarmed Bridegroom Killed by Police Mourned at Funeral

Hundreds gathered at the Dec. 2 funeral of Sean Bell, the New York bridegroom who was killed by police shortly before he was to be married.

After leaving a club with two friends, Bell drove a car that struck an unmarked police vehicle, leading five police to fire fifty shots into Bell's car. The severity of the police response, in apparent violation of city policy regarding the use of deadly weapons, provoked outrage from a community sensitive to racial tension.

At various points during the funeral, mourners chanted, "No justice, no peace!" and "Fifty shots from the New York cops!" Rev. Al Sharpton spoke at the funeral, saying, "We don't hate cops. We don't hate race. We hate wrong."

Five police officers have been placed on paid leave pending the outcome of grand jury investigation.

Sources: CNN, The New York Times, The Washington Post

*Todd's Paperside Chat*

# Moving Into the South Houses

**BY: TODD GINGRICH**

We are nearing the end of the South House renovations. In many respects the houses will be far nicer than they were, but I am concerned about a few aspects of the move-in and construction. I want to share my concerns openly so that all students are aware of the potential problems and so that the appropriate administrators can help us solve the issues as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Starting December 15, students will be allowed to start moving into the South Houses. The move-in date is unfortunate since many if not most students will be returning home for break before this time.

I was hopeful that students would be allowed to move their belongings into the South Houses before leaving for home, but this will not be possible since the Houses cannot be inspected by the fire marshal any sooner.

Students must finish moving out of the Mods by January 8. This should give sufficient time for students to move at the very

beginning of second term.

In order to help make the move easier, I have been assured that Daihatsus will be made available to help students move their belongings more easily.

These carts should be running between the Mods and the South Houses on December 15 and in early January when students return for class. If you plan to move your stuff on a different date, talk to housing and they can probably get a cart to help you out.

Progress with the South House rooms is on schedule, but some of the construction in the basement will not be finished immediately. Most notably, the laundry room may not be completely finished until January 15.

Initially I was told that the laundry rooms would not be functional until January 15, though now I have heard that the may possibly be able to run off coins at an earlier date.

Additionally, the South House kitchen will not be completed on schedule. Dinners will be served in the South House dining rooms starting second term, but it will probably take a few more weeks

until the kitchens can be operational.

CDS is working very hard to get the kitchens going as quickly as possible despite the construction delays, so please bear with them through the second term.

Finally, my biggest concern with the project is the state of the Student Activities Center (SAC) in the basement of the South House complex. Traditionally the SAC has housed a number of rooms for student activities including music practice rooms, club meeting rooms, the ASCIT screening room, the screenprinting room, the Tech and Big T offices, two dark rooms, the DDR room, and a few art rooms.

The vast majority of student rooms in the SAC were "eliminated from the scope of the project." During the "value engineering process" many parts of the project were scaled back. The IHC was consulted to help prioritize some of these cuts, but the decision to not finish the SAC was made without IHC consultation.

It is unfortunate that this decision was made. I feel that it was short-sighted and irresponsible, especially considering that the

**Basement Rooms Temporarily Eliminated From the Project**

Music Rooms (9)  
Music Offices (relocated to a campus house)  
ASCIT/IHC Room  
ASCIT Screening Room for movies  
Group Study Rooms (2)  
TA Room  
Big T/Tech Offices  
Big T/Tech Library  
Dark Room  
Prac Physics Lab Room  
DDR Room  
Art Rooms (all including silk-screening room)

**Basement Rooms to be Completed by December 15**

Library  
Computer Rooms (1 per house)  
Dabney Lounge  
Construction Storage Rooms (2)  
Bike Shop  
Restrooms (2 Men's and 2 Women's)  
Custodial Office  
Custodial Breakroom

**Basement Rooms to be Completed by January 15**

Student Workshop  
Laundry Room

would cost a few hundred thousand dollars, a rather modest figure compared to the cost of some of the other features which were included in the construction.

I have been told by Vice President Hall that President Chameau considers finishing the SAC to be a priority. Provost Jennings and Vice President Currie will be working to estimate the cost and identify funding. In mid-January the administration should be ready to meet with students to discuss a final plan for the project.

Obviously it is not ideal that the SAC will not be open with the rest of the South Houses, but I am now optimistic that it should be open by the next school year if not before.

## Movie Review

# Return to Laughter

**BY: CINDY KO**

**Grade A**

"weird and uncomfortable" vibe that signals to the viewer that something is amiss.

Our heroine, Raimunda (played by Penelope Cruz), is a working mother who takes on a convoluted mess when her teenage daughter commits a murder that she can't blame her for. One night while Raimunda is out at work, her husband makes drunken attempts at their daughter, who manages to defend herself but stabs and kills her father in the process.

During the film, Raimunda must right all the wrongs, protect her daughter, and remain a pillar of strength for her family. In ad-



Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

**"Hmm, I think I missed a spot."** Penelope Cruz does the dirty dishes in *Volver*.

dition to that, her elderly aunt is barely able to care for herself and Raimunda fears that she will die alone if she doesn't do something soon.

To make ends meet, our heroine takes over a friend's restaurant to earn money on the side. At the same time, she finds a way to dispose of her husband's body, which

she stores in the restaurant's deep freezer for the time being.

The character development is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

# Tough Couple Weeks for Investors in Finance Experiment

On Tuesday, November 21, the fund managers traded in the sixth round of the financial-markets experiment. There were 70 investors and 32 managers who participated, all of them Caltech students. 32 managers and 73 investors also participated on Nov. 28. The fund managers are identified by names of minerals; all funds traded actively. The DowTech is a fixed portfolio of assets and cash, and provides the measure of return if managers started with that portfolio and held on to it. In this round, most funds have negative returns. If you want to participate in the experiment as an investor, or if you would like to see how the managers performed in the previous rounds, visit <http://clef.caltech.edu/exp/dp/index.html>

Fund	11/21/06			11/28/06		
	Returns*	Volume**	Risky*#	Returns	Volume	Risky
DowTech	-0.80	NA	87.00%	-0.80	NA	86.60%
Albite	-1.9	2.53%	197.28%	-1.7	2.23%	174.53%
Alexandrite	0.95	8.67%	-117.53%	-0.82	13.47%	62.01%
Allanite	-0.05	2.74%	-7.20%	-0.73	4.30%	113.05%
Alunite	-1.07	2.21%	119.57%	-1.43	1.21%	141.60%
Amazonite	-1.25	6.80%	121.52%	-1.07	5.87%	143.54%
Amblygonite	-0.93	11.69%	102.85%	-0.31	6.08%	68.30%
98145.451	-1.49	1.29%	145.98%	-1.44	1.01%	153.86%
Andalusite	-5.27	0.85%	475.63%	-3.96	2.14%	411.83%
Anthophyllite	-1.45	0.63%	159.80%	-1.47	1.26%	151.68%
Atacamite	-0.96	0.74%	101.55%	-0.92	2.54%	109.76%
Barite	-0.97	0.57%	92.17%	-0.29	1.15%	23.47%
Bassanite	-1.19	2.68%	121.64%	-1.57	2.67%	144.17%
Beidellite	0.54	0.74%	-63.61%	-1.39	1.82%	108.97%
Bementite	-0.13	5.27%	12.15%	0.88	4.03%	-68.65%
Bentonite	-1.09	0.76%	119.30%	-0.97	1.15%	109.06%
Bertrandite	0.93	6.27%	-152.87%	-0.68	11.13%	99.80%

Fund	11/21/06			11/28/06		
	Returns*	Volume**	Risky*#	Returns	Volume	Risky
Biotite	-0.74	1.07%	79.08%	-0.77	1.70%	85.36%
Birnessite	0.56	0.51%	-91.59%	0.08	1.19%	-11.67%
Bloedite	-0.58	0.46%	67.24%	6.25	0.74%	-597.78%
Boracite	-1.2	2.44%	128.35%	-1.7	1.13%	140.97%
Calcite	-0.52	0.71%	30.56%	4.53	1.12%	-602.16%
Carnallite	-1.27	10.80%	155.10%	-1.59	4.90%	197.76%
Celestite	0.03	0.50%	-18.67%	-0.71	1.65%	77.89%
Chalcopyrite	-0.6	2.65%	75.45%	-0.61	0.92%	97.09%
Chlorite	-1.25	1.33%	120.65%	-1.12	2.55%	111.70%
Colemanite	-0.68	6.26%	97.51%	2.02	2.30%	-239.41%
Cornadite	-1.31	13.42%	145.84%	-1.59	12.02%	146.85%
Cristobalite	-1.31	0.69%	132.77%	-0.14	0.87%	5.94%
Cryolite	-1.21	0.70%	122.84%	-1.46	0.81%	145.89%
Dolomite	-0.74	1.18%	78.45%	1.62	1.20%	-131.01%
Dumortierite	-0.9	1.07%	95.43%	-0.77	0.85%	81.83%
Dunite	0.76	1.77%	-110.85%	0.9	3.99%	-116.15%

\* Returns = (final value portfolio - initial value portfolio)/initial value portfolio

\*\* Volume = initial value portfolio/(total value of all portfolios)\*100

\*# Risky = (value of final holdings of risky assets)/(value of final portfolio)\*100, portfolio values at trading prices, not at return levels

Career Corner

# Tips for Writing the Personal Statement

**BY: JONIE WATANABE TSUJI  
CAREER COUNSELOR**

**Christmas 1988. My uncle gave me my first Lego set and my engineering career began. From constructing that first crudely built house at age 3, to building a toothpick suspension bridge at 16, to working with a talented team on an autonomous ground vehicle at 20 (the DARPA "Grand Challenge"), I've cultivated a passion for engineering.**

What will a graduate school admissions committee think of this opening? Is it catchy enough to make them want to read on? What would they want to see next? Writing a personal statement for graduate school—putting oneself on paper for strangers' judgment—can be daunting. However, keeping a few tips in mind may make it easier for students to prepare successful personal statements.

Dr. Steven Youra, the Director of the Hixon Writing Center on campus did a presentation on "Writing an Effective Personal Statement for Graduate School" on November 14th for the Career Development Center. He discussed some of the salient points Techers need to consider when writing that statement.

\* Reviewers use the personal statement to distinguish among many qualified applicants and provide possible material for interviews. Applicants can use the essay to their advantage, by enhancing mere data (grades, standardized test scores) with a sense of who they are and what drives them. A well-written statement can raise interest in an application and demonstrate a student's ability to

communicate effectively.

\* Writers should understand the structure of a personal statement: a strong opening engages readers and makes them want to read on; an appropriate ending provides closure without reaching for platitudes or grandeur. At the center, writers discuss their motivations and reasons for a career in a particular field, present relevant personal qualities and experiences, and perhaps explain (but not excuse) any unusual circumstances (inconsistent grades, time off, etc.).

\* Writers should try to "show" more than "tell." A description of personal qualities is strengthened by specific details and incidents. In the same vein, although different schools may ask similar questions, writers should try to customize their statements by including details that convey why a particular school or program is a good match, and, if appropriate, naming faculty members they'd like to work with.

\* As for the writing process, Youra encourages students to begin by brainstorming to generate ideas and produce rough writing that they can later shape, organize, revise, and edit. In revising, writers should solicit feedback, both from others who know them (e.g., classmates, advisors) and those who don't (e.g., Career Center staff, the Hixon Writing Center's peer writing consultants).

Writing a winning personal statement isn't fun, but it can be rewarding. Understanding the components of an effective essay and developing an efficient writing process can certainly ease the task. For help at any stage of the writing process, contact the CDC or the Hixon Writing Center: <http://writing.caltech.edu>.

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(joe@areeda.com)



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COSTUME PIERRE-YVES GAYAUD DESIGN ULI HANISCH PRODUCTION DESIGNER CHRISTINE ROTHE EDITOR ALEXANDER BERNER DIRECTOR OF FRANK GRÖBE PRODUCED BY ANDRÉAS SCHMID ANDY GROSCH MANUEL MALE SAMUEL HADIDA JULIO FERNANDEZ EXECUTIVE MARTIN MOSZKOWICZ  
CONSTANTIN FILM PRODUCTION DESIGNER GIGI DERI PRODUCED BY PATRICK SUSKIND PRODUCED BY BERND EICHINGER SCREENPLAY BY ANDREW BIRKIN & BERND EICHINGER & TOM TYKWER DIRECTED BY TOM TYKWER  
REstricted UNDER 17 REQUIRES ACCOMPANYING PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN  
ABERRANT BEHAVIOR INVOLVING NUDITY, VIOLENCE, SEXUALITY, AND DISTURBING IMAGES.

Albums I listened to but will not bother to write a review about:

1) The Decembrids- *The Crane Wife* (2006)

Grade: B

Comments: Not bad, but not great either.

2) Beck-*The Information* (2006)

Grade: A-

Comments: Guero + Sea Change = The Information. Comes with a sticker booklet that lets you make the album cover yourself, and a DVD of Beck videos. Pretty shweet.

# Volver Unexpectedly Funny

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

rich, and some characters seem to evolve dramatically as the plot unfolds, such as the ghost of Raimunda's mother, who eventually comes to stay with her sister. In the end, we learn more about our heroine's past than we could ever guess, and somehow it all comes full circle—hence, *Volver*.

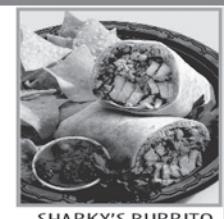
I can't tell you more about what happens without completely spoiling the movie, but I will say that it is colorful, witty, and one of Almodóvar's finer works. There are plenty of subtle puns hidden in the dialogue; they are especially funny if you can understand Spanish. Also, lots of funny situations brought to life by brilliant acting, such as how Raimunda is alerted to the presence of her mother's ghost by smelling the distinct odor of her mother's farts in a room.

*Volver* is a very good movie that I would recommend to anyone. The story is interesting and told in such a way that the many meanings complement each other and add further dimension to the plot.

The acting is vibrant and natural, and the jokes are lighthearted—like spending an

afternoon with a bunch of silly friends. Also, I like practicing my Spanish with a movie like this. (Fun Movie Factoid: Penelope Cruz wears fat pads on her buttocks and breasts in this movie to appear a more earthy and voluptuous woman. Sometimes, you can notice the weird creases on her butt!)

Overall, this earns my highest stamp of approval. Not only was it the best movie I've seen in a long time, but it might just make it into my all-time favorites list.



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IN THEATRES DECEMBER 27

# Fall Term Sports Summary

BY: MARK EICHENLAUB

## Men's Cross Country

Coach Scott Jung's men finished in 8th place of eight teams at the SCIAC Multi-Dual meet Oct. 14, and again in 8th at the SCIAC Championships two weeks later. In their final competition of the year, the team improved to 12th of 15 teams at the DIII West Regional meet, and was the 4th SCIAC team in the meet. "The worst part [of the season] was dealing with the injuries," said Jung. Jung nonetheless thinks the season went well for the Beavers, "everyone had their best race for conferences." Jung believes he executed six U-turns this year, several of which have been photographically documented. Individually, junior Matt Kiesz was the team MVP and won the Paul Barthel cross country award.

## Women's Cross Country

After three early tune-up meets, the women's cross country team earned 7th place in the SCIAC Multi-Dual meet and 8th place in the SCIAC Championships, finishing the year tied for 7th place in the conference with Whittier. Caltech was again the 7th SCIAC team at the West Regional, where they finished 15th of 16 teams. "I thought this team was closer than more teams in the past," said Coach Jung. "The team always seems to perform well at the end of the season. It felt pretty satisfactory. Wait, that's not the word I'm looking for," Jung elaborated.

He further explained that his fundamental philosophy on U-turns is that they are a matter of consistency. Junior Katherine Breeden earned team MVP honors after trading the first-place finisher spot back and forth with senior Diana Lin all season.

## Soccer

They won a game. Coach Rollo's squad defeated Whittier 2-1 on Sept. 30. Unfortunately, Whittier avenged the loss with a 2-0 victory on Oct. 25 and Caltech finished the season in 8th place among SCIAC teams, with a 1-18 overall record. Junior Elliot Pallett was named to the second all-conference team.

## Men's Water Polo

If 0-10 sounds like a bad season record, it could be worse. For example, it could be 0-16, which was Coach Dodd's team's record this year. The Caltech "C" team did win a game on Sept. 30, defeating the regular, unlettered Caltech team in the process. Sophomore Tom Oliver performed exceptionally well and made the second all-conference team.

## Volleyball

The volleyball team won a game against Whittier this year on Oct. 24, but in volleyball you have to win three games or it doesn't count. This is called a set, and you can learn more about it by taking Math 5. Coach Burl's Beavers finished the season with an 0-23 record. Senior Lisa Streit led the team in a variety of sta-

tistics, the exact nature of which proved mostly inscrutable to this reporter.

## Men's Basketball

After the loss to graduation of the 2005-2006 basketball team's core, Coach Roy Dow says this year the team's goal is simply to "keep getting better," both in practice and in games, as the season progresses. The team is 0-5 in exclusively non-conference play so far, a record indicating things are going to plan, as the only place to go is up. Key players for the team this year will include Brian Hires, Paxton Frady, Mike Underhill, Travis Haussler, and Matt Dellatorre. Frady and Chris Yu are the team captains. Dow says the plan for the year is not to focus on any one opponent. "There's a tendency of our athletic teams to point to games on the schedule where it's that team immediately above them in the standings. When we do that we miss out on other potential opportunities," he said. By next term the team will be practicing five days a week and missing very few opportunities indeed. Their next home game while school is in session lands on Jan. 4 against Robert Morris.

## Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team has started its season with four losses, but that's okay, because they have 21 games left to try to improve. The team won two games against Southwestern College last year, who they will play



Diana Lin (L) and Katherine Breeden were the top two runners for the Beavers this season

## Men and Women Swimming and Diving

This is another sport we have. The men and women easily defeated Chapman in a dual meet Nov. 28 before just as easily losing to Redlands Dec. 1. On Jan. 6 they will entertain Pomona-Pitzer in a dual meet here at Tech.

# GSC Hosts Annual Gladiators Event

BY: NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

The spectators hold their breath as the warriors enter the arena. Their taut, muscular bodies gleam under the sun as the gladiators get ready to fight until the bitter end. There is no option of defeat; victory is all they can accept. The warriors position themselves in respective spots and complete silence envelopes the field. The match begins.

Alright, so perhaps the Caltech Gladiators were not quite so epic, but I have to admit, there definitely is something incredible in seeing my Chem TA rolling on the grass after he attempted an amazing feat of consuming an undefined amount of alcohol, spinning around in a circle ten times, and desperately trying to walk in a straight line.

A long-standing tradition, the Gladiators is an event

that is open to both graduate and undergraduate students. Ten teams competed this year – Rugby, Alumni, Chem-E and Wannabes, CNS, Hometown Buffet, USC/MIT Alums, Page Party (the only team consisting of undergraduates), Puntas del Fuego, GPS, and Team Domination.

The competition was split up into a series of separate games and the final round. The challenges included Shangria, Crazy Kickball, Obstacle Course, Beer Pong, Waterballoon Battleship, Team Puzzle, Frisknock, and Red Rover.

Before the final round of the Gladiators started, GPS led the scoreboard with seven victories, closely followed by Rugby and USC/MIT Alums, each with 6 wins, and Hometown Buffet with 5. The final game consisted of three rounds of hula hooping, with each team having the same

number of representatives as the number of its wins. Although USC/MIT team had a strong standing going into the final round, it was crushed by the GPS and Hometown teams, who battled neck-to-neck for the title of the champions.

GPS won the first two rounds of the final level, but Hometown Buffet emerged victorious in the third round after some 30 minutes of non-stop hula hooping. As a result, GSC and Hometown Buffet tied for first place and will share the title of champions. Graduate Student Council will display the trophy outside of Chandler Cafe.

Some of the challenges that competitors had to face were interestingly amusing. For one, seeing fully grown men and women sprawled out on the grass, relentlessly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



These zany events of Gladiators-past, while not part of this year's Gladiator line-up, are representative of Gladiators' tradition of creative and entertaining contests.

Photo courtesy of its.caltech.edu/~gsc/gladiators/

Photo courtesy of its.caltech.edu/~gsc/gladiators/

# Grizzly Grads Gyrate Gladiatorhood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

bombarding each other with water balloons and pretending to be human battleship is not a usual occurrence at Caltech. Of course, neither is chugging down alcohol, crawling between teammates' legs, spinning around a baseball bat, and stumbling back following a rather sinusoidal trajectory, which is exactly

what happened in a challenge called Shangria.

Not all of the challenges presented were as physical as Waterballoon Battleship and Shangria. To achieve victory in Team Puzzle, competitors had to work together as a team and assemble a variety of 3D puzzles. The activity proved to be incredibly frustrating to the competitors, who often

had to overcome extreme peril while putting together the shapes, or at least the right shapes.

The overall relaxing, fun atmosphere of the Gladiators was matched by music, free food, and an incredible abundance of alcohol, as well as an unbelievable lack of anything related to academics. Ronnie Bryan, who co-coor-

dinated the event with Evans Boney, said, "I like seeing different people from campus interact with each other, hang out, and drink together."

Will Ford, member of Team Rugby, seconded Bryan's thoughts.

"[Gladiators] is a good way to have grad students interact with each other outside of their options and regular

classes. Alumni also come back and some bring their kids with them, so this becomes a family event. It's very nice," said Ford.

Gladiators will continue to be an annual event. Gladiators 2007 will take place at the end of the academic year, shortly after the end of third-term finals.

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, December 10th**

4:00PM - Women's Basketball vs. Chapman Univ.

**Saturday, December 16th**

1:00PM - Men's Basketball - Caltech vs. UC Santa Cruz  
3:00PM - Men's Basketball - Cal Lutheran vs. Pacific (OR)  
5:30PM - Women's Basketball - Caltech vs. San Diego Christian

**Sunday, December 17th**

1:00PM - Men's Basketball vs. Pacific (OR) @Cal Lutheran

**Thursday, December 28th**

6:00PM - Women's Basketball @ San Diego Christian Univ..

**Friday, December 29th**

Caltech (Men's) Basketball Festival  
2:00PM - Caltech vs. Williams College (MA)  
4:00PM - Occidental College vs. Wisconsin Lutheran Univ.

**Saturday, December 30th**

7:30PM - Women's Basketball @ La Sierra Tourney

**Sunday, December 31st**

Caltech (Men's) Basketball Festival  
1:00PM - Caltech vs. Wisconsin Lutheran Univ.  
3:00PM - Occidental College vs. Williams College (MA)  
TBA - Women's Basketball @ La Sierra Tourney

**Wednesday, January 3rd**

7:30PM - Women's Basketball vs. Southwestern College (AZ)

**Thursday, January 4th**

7:30PM - Men's Basketball vs. Robert Morris Univ. (IL)

**Saturday, Januray 6th**

10:30AM - M/W Swimming & Diving @ Pomona-Pitzer Colleges  
7:30PM - Men's Basketball vs. Bard College (NY)

### The Fannie and John Hertz Foundation

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**Mr. David Yu Zhang**  
Biotechnology

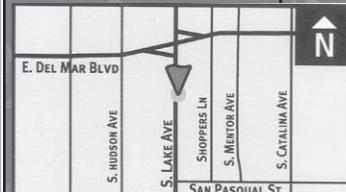
Mr. Zhang is one of 15  
Hertz Foundation Fellows  
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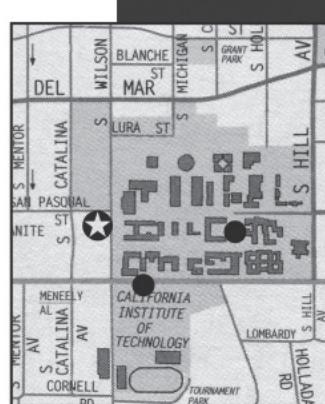
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	5		8	9

Puzzle courtesy of <http://www.websudoku.com/>

Morgan T. Rex by Mark Eichenlaub and Tzong-Lian Tsay



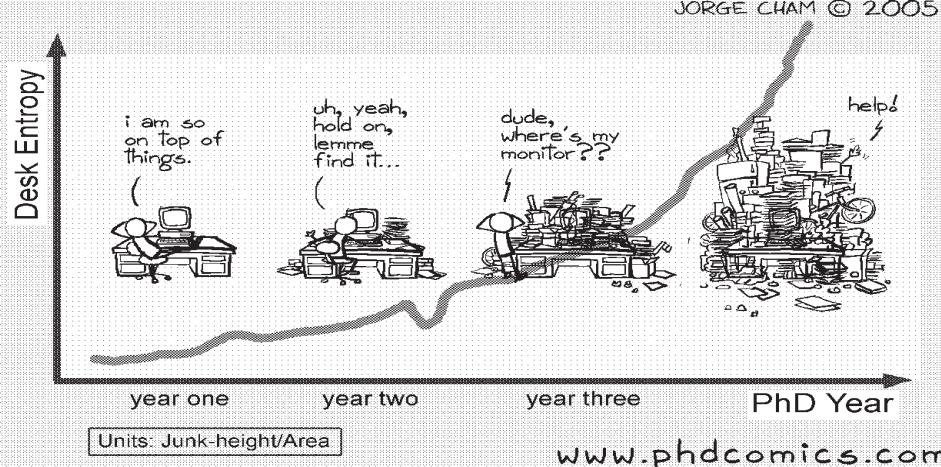
## DESK ENTROPY

### Definition

Desk entropy is a spatiodynamic quantity that measures a workspace's degree of disorder, and the inability to find anything when you really need it.

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## ADDRESSING REVIEWER COMMENTS

BAD REVIEWS ON YOUR PAPER? FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES AND YOU MAY YET GET IT PAST THE EDITOR:

### Reviewer comment:

"The method/device/paradigm the authors propose is clearly wrong."

### How NOT to respond:

✗ "Yes, we know. We thought we could still get a paper out of it. Sorry."

### Correct response:

✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, as the focus of this work is exploratory and not performance-based, validation was not found to be of critical importance to the contribution of the paper."

### Reviewer comment:

"The authors fail to reference the work of Smith et al., who solved the same problem 20 years ago."

### How NOT to respond:

✗ "Huh. We didn't think anybody had read that. Actually, their solution is better than ours."

### Correct response:

✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, our work is based on completely different first principles (we use different variable names), and has a much more attractive graphical user interface."

### Reviewer comment:

"This paper is poorly written and scientifically unsound. I do not recommend it for publication."

### How NOT to respond:

✗ "You #&@% reviewer! I know who you are! I'm gonna get you when it's my turn to review!"

### Correct response:

✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, we feel the reviewer did not fully comprehend the scope of the work, and misjudged the results based on incorrect assumptions."

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## The Piled Higher & Deeper Paper Review Worksheet

Stuck reviewing papers for your advisor? Just add up the points using this helpful grade sheet to determine your recommendation.

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Paper title uses witty pun, colon or begins with "On..." (+10 pt)	
Paper has pretty graphics and/or 3D plots (+10 pt)	
Paper has lots of equations (+10 pt) (add +5 if they look like gibberish to you)	
Author is a labmate (+10 pt)	
Author is on your thesis committee (+60 pt)	
Paper is on same topic as your thesis (-30 pt)	
Paper cites your work (+20 pt)	
Paper scooped your results (-1000 pt)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

Points	Recommendation
< 0	Recommend, but write scathing review that'll take them months to rebuff.
0-120	Recommend, but insist your work be cited more prominently.
>120	Recommended and deserving of an award

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## Commentary

# Checking the Force of the Police Force

BY: EVANS BONEY

When I was in Pittsburgh recently, a group of people with anti-war signs were standing outside a closed recruitment office. While they hadn't gotten permission to gather, there were only about 20 people, and they had the permission of the owners of the businesses where they were gathering. I happened to be eating breakfast across the street, and was taken aback by what I saw there.

At the same time, four police cars showed up, and eight policemen jumped out. They berated the crowd, not asking to speak to who was in charge, but shouting at them to leave immediately.

The leader, a 55-year-old woman, then came over to talk to them. At this time, a K-9 unit arrived. The man handling the dog wasn't strong enough to stop him, and the dog dragged the man over to the 55-year-old woman, whom the dog proceeded to attack.

The woman, having been initially cooperative and then attacked without provocation, wanted to leave, and refused to come with the police. She was accordingly arrested for resisting arrest. No video, no repercussions. I have a problem with this.

Recently, several videos have surfaced of LA area police department brutality. As a student, I am most disturbed by the be-

havior of the UCPD at UCLA. When one student without an ID card wouldn't leave the computer center, the campus police called in the real police.

Upon sighting the UCPD, the student decided it was time to leave, grabbed his backpack, and tried to go. At this point, the police stopped him from leaving. After that, it's all on tape.

The student screams "get your hands off me", and is clearly uncooperative, and so he gets tased. Maybe there is some reason he needed to be apprehended, so fine, tasing him the first time is not my gripe.

My gripe is that, while on the ground after being tased the first time, the student lets the police know he is willing, but unable to cooperate. When the police try to stand him up, he does not help, and remains limp.

He gets tased again. This happens 2-3 more times. When other students try to intervene, they are told to step back or they'll be tased. So is a student who asks the policemen for their identification numbers. After the video surfaced, the internal investigation began. I have a problem with this.

Policemen, in general, do a great job, but when they use more than necessary force they must be punished. Who will guard the guards? While it should be internal affairs, apparently, these days, it's the video-phone.



Students protest outside UCLA after a student was tased by police in a campus library.

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Photo courtesy of The Los Angeles Times