

# THE CALIFORNIA TECH



tech@caltech.edu

VOLUME CVIII, NUMBER 16

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 12, 2007

## Housing Explains New Policies for Pets in Houses

BY: NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

As much as some Caltech cats are used to enjoying the freedom of roaming free outside the houses and laying out in the sun, their lifestyles will have to change under the new cat policy that went into effect at the beginning of this term.

Representatives from Institute Housing, including Tim Chang, were available to answer questions about the policy during a small Pet Education fair that took place on Thursday on the San Pasqual Mall. The fair, sponsored by the Caltech

Animal Team (CAT) and Housing, included representatives from the Pasadena Humane Society as well as from several pet stores. Aside from providing an opportunity to discuss the cat policy, the fair was complete with a variety of information regarding pet care, local veterinary hospitals and other places of interest, as well as a raffle for cat food.

Chang cited a variety of issues as a justification for the new, more restrictive cat policy, which went into ef-

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Photo by Natalya Kostandova

This cat won't be roaming the grass as freely with the new restrictions in place.

## Women's Team Wins Again



Photo by Matthew Glassman

Spurred on by a tailgate party organized by the GSC, the women's basketball team beat Whittier 44-42. More photos on Page 6.

## Jared Diamond Marks an Epochal Event

BY: MARK EICHENLAUB

Dr. Jared Diamond, Professor of Geography at UCLA, will deliver the keynote speech at Caltech's 2007 Commencement ceremony. Dr. Diamond is best known as the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, which argues that the geography has been the most important factor in creating the different rates of technological and cultural advancement between human civilizations.

Dr. Diamond's academic work has spanned the gamut of intellectual pursuits, from biophysics to ornithology and evolutionary biology to anthropology and linguistics. His current research continues his investigations of the relationships between geography and human societies. His most-recent book, *Collapse*, explores the roots of why some societies flourish while others fall.

Dr. Diamond was chosen from a long list of as many as 70 possible commencement speakers, according to Senior Class Co-President Cindy Ko. Ko and Co-President Issac Garcia-Munoz polled the members of the

senior class to get an idea of who the students would like to hear deliver the keynote address.

The Co-Presidents created a short list of preferred candidates, but none were available to give the speech. Caltech offers neither honorary degrees nor speaker fees to prospective commencement speakers, making it difficult to attract some potential speakers. "Dr. Bunsen Honeydew" and "Beaker", the scientific pedagogues from *The Muppet Show*, as well as political satirist Jon Stewart, were unavailable for this reason.

"We bring our list to a committee of Bob O'Rourke, VP of Public Relations, Professor Cindy Weinstein, and Daniel Tabata. We discuss the possibilities and decide who we are going to ask. Then President Chameau uses his strings to try to entice people," Ko said of the selection process.

President Chameau said that in the future, the selection process should start earlier. "A number of names were suggested to me, but those speakers' schedules are such that you have to get them a year and a half or two years in ad-

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BY: Radhika Marathe

## World Politics

### US incites other Countries to seek Nuclear Weapons: Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin stated his opinion about how other countries are being forced to seek nuclear weapons to protect themselves from an 'almost uncontrollable use of military force', by the US.

Speaking at the Munich Conference on Security Policy, an annual forum that attracts officials from over the world, on Saturday, Putin said, "Unilateral, illegitimate actions have not solved a single problem, they have become a hotbed of further conflicts".

Tension has been escalating between Moscow and Washington during repeated incidents during the past year, with US Vice President Dick Cheney accusing Russia of using its nuclear resources as a tool for intimidation. Moreover the US has been angered by Russia's reluctance to impose meaningful sanctions against Iran which was accused of seeking to

have its own nuclear weapons under the guise of a peaceful civilian atomic energy program.

Though Putin did not make any references to the war in Iraq or Afghanistan, he expressed concern over NATO's expansion plans as possibly threatening to Russia. He attacked the Bush administration for encouraging a new arms race after the cold war by planning to deploy a missile defense system in eastern Europe and supporting a UN plan that would grant independence to Serbia's province of Kosovo.

Although the White House responded that it was 'surprised and disappointed' by Putin's remarks, it would 'continue cooperation with Russia in areas such as counterterrorism and reducing the spread and threat of weapons of mass destruction.'

## Education

### Harvard announces Curriculum Overhaul

Harvard University announced its plans to change its curriculum, including a larger emphasis on religious and cultural issues, the sciences and overcoming US 'parochialism.'

'The proposed overhaul would be Harvard's largest in over three decades.

Harvard has been criticized for emphasizing academic over real-life issues and being antagonistic to religion in spite of being the oldest university in the US.

Revisions have been in progress for the past three years and one of those includes a new subject area - 'societies of the world,' which will introduce students to the customs and cultures of people around the world that differ from their own, thus allowing them to overcome US parochialism.

Although the report is still under review and the university's Faculty of Arts and Sciences will vote on it in March, officials believe it is expected to be implemented. Harvard incidentally is also expected to announce a new president, a female president for the first time in the history of Harvard according to inside information, to steer these changes.

"The technology sets up the opportunity for constant stalking, for constant communication, for constant intimidation and threatening behavior," asserted Dr. Jill Murray, a psychologist specializing in teen relationship violence. Murray was speaking at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. "We are seeing an increase in teen dating abuse and this is a good part of it."

## Health

### Survey finds Text Messaging a Tool in Teen Dating Abuse

Nearly 25 percent of teens communicate hourly with their partners between the hours of midnight and five am according to results of a recent survey by Teenage Research Unlimited, a research organization specializing in research on teens and young adults. Almost a third of the teens surveyed who have been in a relationship said they have been messaged by their partner up to 30 times an hour to check where they are, what they are doing, and whom they are with.

The National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline was launched on Thursday along with the release of the survey results, a nationwide resource with an interactive website and a toll free number 866-331-9474.

will also isolate themselves from their parents and friends and will allow their partners the last word on everything up to their choice of clothes they wear.

The survey shows clearly that about 72 percent of the teens who were being checked on ten times an hour by text messaging or email did not tell their parents and half the teens surveyed said technology made it easier to conceal controlling behavior from their parents.

The National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline was launched on Thursday along with the release of the survey results, a nationwide resource with an interactive website and a toll free number 866-331-9474.

Source CNN, Reuters

## Announcements

### Prizes for Student Writers

The English Faculty is pleased to announce the Hallett Smith and the 61st McKinney Competition.

#### McKinney Prize

The Mary A. Earl McKinney Prize is awarded each year for excellence in writing. This year, prizes will be given in three categories: poetry, prose fiction, and non-fiction essays.

In the poetry category, entrants may submit up to three poems. Submissions of prose fiction should not exceed 12,000 words.

Essays may be ones prepared for a humanities class or any good piece of original writing on a topic relevant to the humanities. The prize in each category will be \$500.

Each student is entitled to only one entry in each category.

Each category will be judged

by a committee from the English Faculty. Essays will be judged on the quality of thought and the effectiveness of the writing. Winners will be announced in May, and the names of the winners will appear in the commencement program. The Committee may divide the award in each category in case of more than one outstanding submission. Previous winners in any one category are not eligible for the competition in that category.

#### Hallett Smith Prize

The annual Hallett Smith Competition honors the finest essay devoted to Shakespeare.

Submissions should not exceed 4,000 words.

The essay may be one prepared for a literature class or may be specifically written for this competition. No student can submit

more than one essay.

This year's prize will be \$350, though the judging committee may divide the award in case of more than one outstanding submission.

Contestants interested in either of the competitions should submit two hard copies of their work to Professor Jenijoy La Belle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, by no later than April 12, 2007. No entries will be returned. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced.

Only full-time students officially registered at Caltech as undergraduates are eligible to enter the competitions.

Students with questions about either competition should contact Prof. La Belle, extension 3605, or Lisa Keppel, extension 3609.

### Free Plants

Sixty 15-gallon containers of golden bamboo and several one-gallon containers of foxtail plants are left over from the temporary student housing on Holliston Avenue, which is being decommissioned. This particular type of bamboo is great for making screens, hedges, or other landscaping projects. Anyone interested in taking the plants is encouraged to call the Grounds Office at 395-4725.

### The California Tech

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## ASCIT Minutes

Present: Todd Gingrich, Chris Gonzales, Mike Grinolds, Andrea Dubin, Jon Senn, Angela Zah, Craig Montuori, Mike Woods, Caleb Ng, Ekta Bhojwani, Nathan Donnellan, Patrick Herring, Daryl Coleman, RJ Krom, Zack Higbee

Guests: Jonathan Winn

#### \*Transitions

-Installations dinner will most likely be Friday, February 23 at 6pm

-Starting next Wednesday, the new BoD will take over. Old BoD members should talk to their replacement to teach them how to do their job.

-Nate Donnellan needs to teach Patrick how to do nothing

#### \*Movie Library

-The movie library needs to be moved out of Tom's office

-ASCIT used to have thousands of DVDs which could be checked out at the coffee house. Unfortunately, we don't have a room in Winnett to store the movie library

right now. We need to find a system for people to check out movies.

-Short term we can store the movies and not use them. There will be a new ASCIT screening room in the SAC, which might be a logical place to have the movies stored.

-Another possibility is to store movies in a locked room and have a few people in charge of it with keys. To check out a movie, one would have to ask one of these people. Possibility of having people keep shifts to check out movies, but this would be a really huge time commitment.

#### \*Midnight donuts

-Midnight donuts will be coming up soon, and Strawberry donuts will be in season.

#### \*Chem 3a

-The Core curriculum Steering Committee is calling for Chem 3a to be on grades if it is taken as an upperclassman. This is in order to encourage students to take it freshman year. This might be survey-worthy. Currently there

is not enough space for all freshmen to take it freshman year due to the number of upperclassmen who still need to take it so there is a backlog. It won't be on grades unless there's a way to have all freshmen take it. There is also serious talk about revamping Chem 3a completely.

#### \*Funding request

-Jonathan Winn requests funding to take Professor Gary Lordon to lunch. Approved

230 yes/0 no/1 abstain

-ASCIT has lots of money to take profs out to the lunch at the Ath.

-Houses also have a card to pay for bringing profs to house dinners.

Andrea Dubin

## Write for

### The Tech

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

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#### Commentary \$20

#### Humour \$20

#### Good Comics \$14

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#### Photos \$5



Photo by Nalya Kosandya

## Tighter Rules for Pets on Campus

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**  
fect on Jan. 1, 2007. "It was an accumulation of reasons, especially after we took into account that many people have allergies. There were also a lot of animals that were abandoned during the break," said Chang.

He further specified in an e-mail, "Cats were found defecating in children sandbox areas, kittens were found dead from lack of care, and there has been a lot of damage from cats who were sick or unable to care for themselves."

The policy, devised by Housing in cooperation with CAT, requires that cats are kept within the owner's room unless they are walked on a hand-held leash under six feet long or transported in a pet carrier. Furthermore, the number of cats per undergraduate house is limited to three, with exception of

Avery, which is not allowed to have cats. The policy also requires sterilization and vaccinations, and specifies responsibilities of the owners for the care of the cat, including a non-refundable payment of \$200 for cat's registration.

In addition to cats, other animals are also limited by the Caltech pet policy and must be kept inside a 20-gallon aquarium. Under this specification, larger animals, such as rabbits, are not allowed in the undergraduate facilities.

"There were a lot of conflicting desires," said Heather Hunt of CAT. "We wanted to find a compromise that will work for everyone." Hunt explained that Housing and CAT went through 15 drafts of the revised cat policy before it was finally approved. "We modeled the draft after the standard contract of the Pasadena Hu-

mane Society, although we modified it to fit Caltech," said Hunt.

The compromise, however, does not satisfy everyone. A student cat owner, who chose to remain anonymous, said, "I think that the leash policy is not reasonable because it is almost impossible to keep a cat on a leash. As for the keeping cats in the room, I don't think it's all that bad, but dorm rooms are usually really small."

Another anonymous student also had concerns, saying "It is actually more inhumane to keep a cat in such a small confined space, and it is more likely to induce more of the disturbance because it is inherent to cats to meow. It will also cause more property damage."

The complete policy can be found on CAT's website, [cat.caltech.edu](http://cat.caltech.edu), and is available in print from Institute Housing.

## A Sparkling Speaker

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**  
vance," Chameau explained. For example, Stephen Hawking was unavailable to deliver the commencement keynote speech because of scheduling conflicts.

Chameau also commented that the process of choosing a commencement speaker is not well-defined. "A number of recommendations are made [to me], mostly by the committee, but sometimes from other sources. I have to try to find out who could be interesting, and available at a given date. I am the one who decides, but the process is not always clear," he said.

Chameau clarified "I don't think it [the selection process] should become a very formal and complex process. It is kind of free flow. It's my first time. I don't have any preconceived ideas to how it should be done."

Despite some ambiguity in the expectations given him, Chameau, who had never met Dr. Diamond before inviting him to speak at Caltech, is very pleased that Diamond accepted his offer. "[Diamond] knows that we are committed to first class science, to educating outstanding young people. He knows that Caltech cares about the issues he cares about as well," he said.

Dr. Chameau believes

Jared Diamond will be an engaging commencement speaker because, "He's interested in issues related to global change, and how civilizations handle problems they create, such as environmental problems. He's speaking about issues that are important to the world and important to students who are going to enter the real world."

Dr. Diamond has lectured at Caltech twice since 2005. On Jan. 9, 2005 he lectured on the topics of his book *Collapse*, and in on Jan. 22, 2006 he gave a talk on "Crisis Management by People and Nations". Both talks, sponsored by the Skeptics Society, filled Beckman Auditorium to beyond capacity.

Recent Caltech Commencement speakers include scientists such as Nobel Laureates David Baltimore and Harold Varumus, writers and performers Sandra Tsing Loh, Alan Alda, and Ray Bradbury, and business executive Carly Fiorina and Trustee Gordon Moore. Videotapes and transcripts from previous commencement speeches can be found online at [http://www.pr.caltech.edu/commencement/info/past\\_ceremonies.html](http://www.pr.caltech.edu/commencement/info/past_ceremonies.html)

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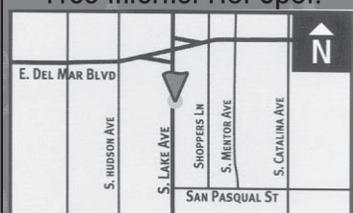
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# Sorry Cindy-I loved Pan's Labyrinth

BY: HARRISON STEIN

*Pan's Labyrinth*- Guillermo del Toro, 2006

Recently, my colleague Cindy Ko wrote an article decrying Guillermo Del Toro's ambitious new film *Pan's Labyrinth*. She was disappointed that the film was built up as an adult fairy tale yet contained too many elements of a gruesome tragedy. She left the theater unmoved, drastically dissatisfied that the highly anticipated film was far different than what she expected.

The viewing experience is completely different for any two people so I fully respect Ms. Ko's opinions and appreciate her eloquent arguments. But at the same time I had a radically different opinion upon leaving the theater, and since *Pan's Labyrinth* is one of my favorite films of 2006, I simply couldn't leave this stone unturned.

Since many of the readers also perused Ms. Ko's article, I will be very brief in describing this glorious film. At the opening in 1944, young Ofelia (Ivana Baquero) travels to Northern Spain to live with her new step-father, the heinous Captain Vidal (Sergi Lopez). El Capitan is in charge of fending off enemies of Franco's fascist regime.

Ofelia's life is anything but a fairy tale until she ventures into a mysterious labyrinth behind the house and is befriended by a CGI-enhanced faun. The creature explains that Ofelia is the supposed long-lost daughter of the underworld king and needs to perform three magical tasks to prove her worthiness to the throne.

Del Toro's fantasy world of fauns, fairies and magical frogs is simply brilliant, as the audience is fully entranced by the mystical beauty of the imagery. Even though the locales are hardly believable, Del Toro does a masterful job of transforming the film into a complex dream.

In a lesser production, it would seem unrealistic and comical that Ofelia could be chased by a creature with eyes in his hands, but in *Pan's Labyrinth* it feels as if we are running besides her, just as terrified as she is. Whenever the film ventures into a fantasy segment, we wish it never left as the world is as captivating as any locale in recent memory.

However, what really sets the film apart is how well the whimsical scenes fit into the larger picture. While Ofelia is a princess in her fantasy world, she is merely a fly on the wall in the real world.

The film focuses on the heroic rebels fighting against the fascist rule in post-war Spain. The real world is far more hideous than her fantasy, and Del Toro doesn't take the subject matter lightly. There are a number of torture scenes and some other violent scenes are, to the audience, simply torturous. These moments are far too graphic to stomach (don't take your kid sister), but the violence is not gratuitous as a bit of revulsion is needed to establish the dark, gloomy mood to contrast with the whimsy of Ofelia's dream world.

The war scenes might not have the magic present in the fantasy world, yet the story is still captivating, to the point that we often forget about Ofelia and the labyrinth. Del Toro masterfully

weaves the two stories together, so that neither can survive without the other, but both are equally compelling. The climax in the labyrinth, a final interlocking of the two settings, is equal parts triumphant and devastating and nearly brought tears to my eyes.

As Cindy noted, the performance of the precocious youngster Ivana Baquero is simply a revelation.

Despite being all of twelve years old, she does an expert job of mixing the emotions of a dreamer with a wild imagination with those of a desolate, forlorn youngster who has been dealt a shoddy hand. She exhibits the heart of a princess, and maybe sometime in the future, she'll become a princess of American

*"There are a number of torture scenes and some other violent scenes are, to the audience, simply torturous... but the violence is not gratuitous as a bit of revulsion is needed to establish the dark, gloomy mood to contrast with the whimsy of Ofelia's dream world."*

cinema.

Sergi Lopez, the fine actor portraying the villainous Captain, makes the most out of an demanding role made even more difficult because his character is given only one dimension.

He plays the embodiment of pure evil but unlike most antagonists of horror movies, he is truly scary. Every time he enters stage right, a chill runs down your spine, fearful of what monstrous plot he has hatched. His torture scenes are dreadful, mainly because he induces such evil and hatred.

However, in the end, the real star of this show is the director Guillermo Del Toro. The Mexican filmmaker, whose best previous film was the little seen *Mimic* steals the show, placing himself alongside such Hispanic luminaries as Pedro Almodovar and Alejandro Amenabar.

The picture is beautifully filmed, the settings are pictur-esque and the CGI graphics are seamlessly integrated into the story. The movie is properly paced and there is never a dull moment. While we hate it whenever the story switches between the fantasy and war plots, it takes only a few minutes to readjust and become reinvigorated.

*Pan's Labyrinth* is a much-needed masterpiece in a year where many movies were good, but very few were great. The ending might not seem satisfying at first, but it is the best way to intertwine both stories into a conclusion that exemplifies the spirit of the film. This movie is not easy to sit through, and like Cindy said, there are far better choices for a first date. Nonetheless, this is a groundbreaking and significant film and I implore you to see the film and form your own opinion.

The war scenes might not have the magic present in the fantasy world, yet the story is still captivating, to the point that we often forget about Ofelia and the labyrinth. Del Toro masterfully

INNOCENCE HAS A POWER EVIL CANNOT IMAGINE



Picture courtesy of Picturehouse

## Labyrinth a Disappointment for Cindy

BY: CINDY KO

*The following is an excerpt of Cindy's review of this movie from two weeks ago.*

After watching the movie trailer for *Pan's Labyrinth* on the Apple website, I was pretty stoked to watch it because it seemed like a movie with a lot of things going for it. Although I wasn't familiar with the director, Guillermo del Toro, the short snippet of the movie looked polished, well-crafted, and slightly off the beaten trail.

The Picturehouse/ Time-Warner website describes the film as a, "fantasy-thriller." Mostly what I had heard from people who saw *Pan's Labyrinth* was that it was "gruesome" and "violent," which surprised me at first.

As one who doesn't stand up to even the cheesiest of horror films, I was a little apprehensive to watch it, but my curiosity about the film was enough to keep me interested, especially now with the Oscar hoopla. Above all, I was attracted to the storyline, which seemed to have the most potential to make it a great and memorable film.

Young protagonist Ofelia travels with her pregnant mother to live with her mother's new husband, a Captain of Franco's forces during the wake of the Spanish Civil War.

Against the backdrop of a military fort fighting rebels in the Spanish countryside, Ofelia dis-

covers signs and clues that lead her to a magical kingdom awaiting her arrival--or rather, her return. As Ofelia later discovers, she is purported to be a member of the missing royalty of the underground kingdom, and their world has been put on hold until she appeared to them again.

The movie is in Spanish, so you probably have to read subtitles for two hours. (However, if you have some Spanish under your belt, it's a good movie to practice listening because the characters don't talk very fast or use any slang.) I thought it was interesting that some of the creatures spoke variants of Old Spanish, which was a fun detail that I noticed from my mediocre Spanish skills.

I found the movie to be lower than my expectations. It's true: I probably built it up for myself, but *Pan's Labyrinth* seemed to have a lot of promise that it just didn't live up to.

The storyline was fine but not magical enough for me. I expected a heavier focus on the fantasy world, and less on the things going on in Ofelia's harsh reality.

This touches on the fact that the director adds seemingly gratuitous scenes of torture and violence to the film. It's hard to say what the purpose was for doing so, but one can only guess that it was to bring the movie into a more visceral arena, and emphasize that this is not a film for children, like Harry Potter.

However, if it's clear that *Pan's Labyrinth* is meant for the older

audience, this contradicts the fact that every figure in the movie was flat and caricatured. The "bad guys" were horrible and had scars on their faces; the "good guys" were really good and looked handsome --the protagonist was especially pretty.

The only issue of ambiguity was the creatures that came from the underworld: those that were ugly and strange, and yet were ready to welcome Ofelia back to her kingdom by cruelly giving her tasks to prove her worth. The movie is strange, confusing, and surprisingly superficial.

The only thing really worth watching in *Pan's Labyrinth* is the brilliant performance by the young Ivana Baquero, who plays the role of Ofelia. Although she is not on the map in terms of big-name stars, she more than makes up for it with talent, exuding the endless grace and poise of a royal princess for the entirety of the film.

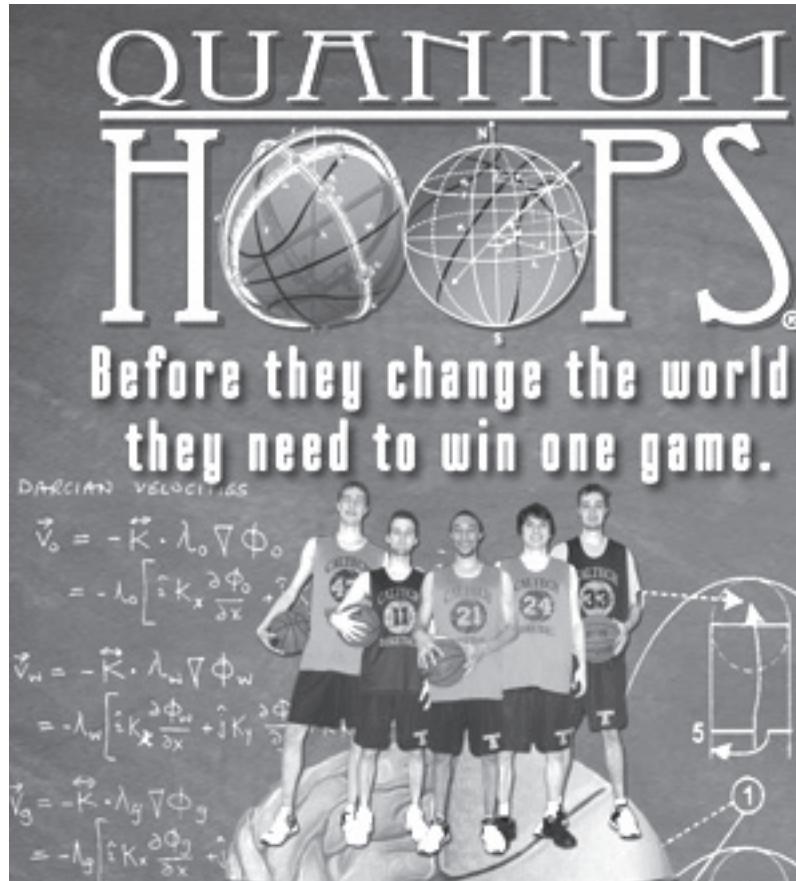
Surely Baquero's performance in *Pan's Labyrinth* will open new roles for her in the future.

I came out of the movie feeling un-moved and awkward, which is definitely not what I expected at all. If you think that *Pan's Labyrinth* is a good date movie, or a movie to take your little sister to, you'd be way off track. Actually, I don't even know if I would recommend it under any circumstances—it wasn't terrible, it was just terribly disappointing.

# Documentary Featuring Basketball Team Sells Out at Festival

BY: NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

"The [losing] streak continued, but for once, there was hope." - *Quantum Hoops*



The front logo on the Quantum Hoops official website, [www.quantumhoops.com](http://www.quantumhoops.com).

Sounds cheesy? I thought it did. Quite honestly, my expectations for *Quantum Hoops*, directed by Rick Greenwald, were not all that high. Sure, I was excited to see a movie about the Tech basketball team, but that was mostly because the team is one of our own, and not because I had a vision of the movie as an amazing documentary. In addition to general desire of being comfortably asleep in my room on a Friday night, I was apprehensive of watching this movie as I have a terrible tendency to easily get either bored or offended with most documentaries.

After just a few minutes into the film, I realized that it was completely different from what I had expected. My feelings about the film can be

alien!" Just in this way, the film popped out of nowhere, striking me with its passion, hope, and honest admiration of the Tech athletes.

The film sums up the last year's season, with the basketball team coming unbelievably close to winning its first SCIAC game in over a decade. *Quantum Hoops* also traces the history of Beaver basketball throughout the years, stopping to elaborate on particularly interesting games and biographies of the athletes.

I was genuinely surprised to find myself waiting in agony for the final moments of the Whittier-Tech game that was the climax of the last season. Perfectly knowing the outcome of the game, I still could not prevent myself from watching the game unwrap with intensity that, judging from its reaction,

was largely shared by the audience. As cheesy as it sounds, I held my breath during the last 7 seconds of the overtime, when Tech and Whittier were tied 84-84 and the outcome of the entire game hung on the one play remaining in the game.

Greenwald had truly managed to capture the audience's attention as everybody watched the ball sink into the Tech basket two seconds before the end of overtime. As I looked around, I saw people blankly staring into the screen, their mouths gaping in disbelief and faces cringing in pain as they realized that as hard as the team had tried, the 200+ SCIAC losing streak was not yet over.

All in all, I was very pleasantly surprised at how the movie had turned out. As much as I dislike documentaries, I enjoyed watching this one, as it was skillfully constructed by Greenwald, intertwining the story of the last year's team with what came before it. Although I found it slightly difficult to keep track of all the past basketball players and would have rather seen a larger focus on the most recent team, I appreciated the extensive amount of research that Greenwald conducted. Greenwald himself described his endeavor to make the film as "a glorious research project, which is more than anything that I did in college."

Greenwald's dedication to the film particularly caught my at-



Quantum Hoops t-shirts available at the bookstore for \$19.95, from Small to XXLarge.

tention. Funding the entire film himself because he did not want to lose the control of the way that it was going, he spent a year making the movie. Greenwald explained that he became interested in Caltech basketball after seeing a short story in "Sports Illustrated" on Coach Dow.

Planning to film a short on the coach, Greenwald started to look into the

team and quickly became interested.

"It was much more than just a silly losing streak – that's how it grew from what I intended to be a 10-minute short into an 85-minute film that you saw."

The film sold out in its initially scheduled two showings and so aired two more times, eventually coming in seventh in the Audience Choice Award out of more than two hundred films at the



The 2005/2006 Men's Basketball Team featured in the movie: Jordan Carlson, Dean Reich, Ben Sexon, Daniel Cullina, Yang Hai, Day Ivy, Scott Davies, Matt Dellatorre, Michael Underhill, Chris Yu, Bryan Hires, Wei Li, Yang Yang, Travis Haussler, David Liu, Paxson Frady, and Coach Roy Dow.

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**Understanding Attention Deficit Disorder**

**When:** Thursday, February 18th at Noon  
**Where:** Caltech Y Lounge

You may be noticing that your mind wanders off task causing you to read the same material multiple times. Maybe you're struggling with organization, time management, focusing, and self-discipline. If you, or anyone you know has difficulties in these areas, you may want to come to find out more about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). In this workshop, Dr. Herman will discuss the importance of self care, medication management, behavioral interventions to help maintain attention, techniques to aid memory, strategies to overcome procrastination, and general tips for mood management.

Santa Barbara Film Festival with a score 4.78/5. Greenwald plans to show the film at the upcoming Atlanta, Seattle, and the Tribeca festivals before releasing it at small theaters and hopefully television and DVD. But for now, he enjoys being here, at Caltech.

"I enjoy walking through campus and meeting all these people, Nobel Prize professors, students, and athletes. ... This school is definitely unique."

As suspicious as I had been prior to the screening, I have had to reconsider my attitude in the favor of *Quantum Hoops*. Contrary to my fears, Greenwald managed to effectively capture the unique spirit of Caltech in his movie.

# Girl's Basketball Wins Again Yay



Rene Davis sweeps down the court.

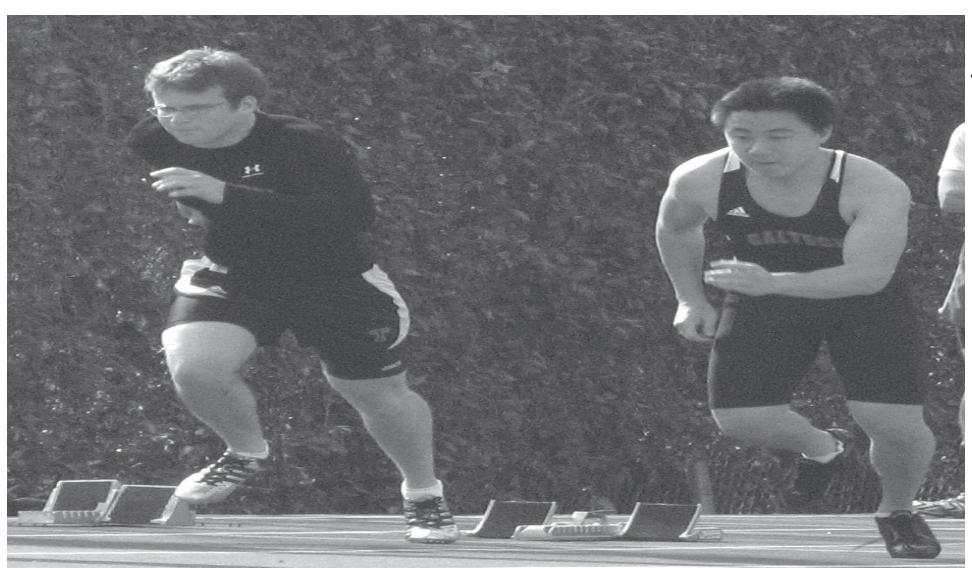
Lisa Yee during the final moments of the game



The final score, 54-52. For those unfamiliar with basketball, that is only a one-basket difference between winning and the opposite.



Nate Donnellan, the new senior co-president, plays on as Tech makes a shot. "The pep-band pumps up the crowd."



In other sports news, Tom Rose and Yike Lu of the track team look forward to bright futures in the first few strides of the 100m

Photo by Matthew Glassman

Photo by Matthew Glassman

Photo by Mark Eichenlaub

# Cat Policy? More like Cat Folicy.

BY: HAMILTONY FALK

As many of you now know, Caltech has instituted a new policy regarding pets in general, and more specifically, cats, on campus. I can print that last sentence because this is a humor column, and blatant untruths are allowed, which is good because by using my extensive research methods[1] I discovered that around 30 people wandered through the pet fair and learned of the new policy (which has been in effect since January 1st it seems) which really isn't very many people.

For example, there are 53 players on an NFL football team, and like three billion people in China. Because the policy is somewhat of a dry read and presumably in a filing cabinet in the little pit in the steam tunnels that bears a warning about a large jungle cat, I'll summarize them for you brave readers of The Tech.

1. The following animals are hereby banned from living on campus or in other Housing owned properties: Dogs, Horses, Rabbits, Hares, Warerabbits, Ducks, Driver Ants, Hippopotami, Alligators (Crocodiles are allowed, as long as they are kept in a glass tank), Cape Buffalo, Llamas, Sea Serpents, Musk Oxen, Box Jellyfish, Bears of any type, Reef Building Corals, Penguins (With the exception of seeing-eye penguins for the legally blind), Dinosaurs of any type, Chupacabras, Venus Fly Traps, Hyenas and Anything that Can and Does Breath Fire.

2. Animals that can fit comfortably within a twenty gallon

glass tank may be allowed if a "form to get you an animal" form is filled out and submitted to housing and we're in a good mood that day.

3. If there is a chance that someone may or may not, now or in the future, be allergic to your animal, it must live in a really cute little space suit thing if that person happens to stop by.

4. A Cat will be allowed as a pet only if it complies with all of the following requirements:

a. The Cat must be both spayed and neutered, because it's not Housing's fault that we can never remember which one is for males and which one is for females.

b. The Cat may not be a tiger, tigerbot or other large cat or catbot, unless the owner is He-man and requires the cat for transportation purposes. This requirement is waived for tigerbot-hesh[2].

c. The Cat must receive regular physical checkups, be medicated against fleas and other common parasites and should eat fish and nuts, as these are high in omega-3 fatty acids, known to reduce heart disease when eaten on a regular basis.

d. The Cat may not stalk, kill and consume any humans unless they were really acting like prey, in which case they had it coming.

e. The Cat may not play any musical instruments except the piano, and playing of said piano should be restricted to daylight hours during the work week.

f. The Cat must be at least 17 years old and posses a California driver's license to operate any motor vehicle, and must be at least 21 years old in order to

consume alcohol.

g. The Cat may not leave the owners room without being on a leash.

5. We can change this contract at anytime without telling you and if you have a cat we can make you be on seven day board or something, or you have to give us like 500 dollars. Because we're in charge, and we said so.

Many of you probably read that and thought something like "wow, that's a silly contract, does housing really think they can make cats live inside all the time or only go out when on a leash?" You probably assumed I was joking, because I often do, but unfortunately Housing is serious.

You might think it is cruel to keep a cat that has been living on campus for several years and has been allowed to roam freely to be locked in a small room only to leave when on a leash. You might even compare it to say, prison, another situation in which freedom is taken away and replaced with confinement.

To this I say, cats are not criminals, and their situation is entirely different. Criminals get to go out into the "yard" without wearing a leash[3]. This leads to another service I will provide to you in order that you may comply more completely with the new Caltech pet policy. Here is a step by step guide to putting a leash on a cat so that you may remove it from its tiny, tiny cell.

Or "Fallacy" as the pronunciation police call it.

1. Buy "cat leash" from store

a. Go to a pet store  
b. Ask for a leash for a cat  
c. Explain that you're serious, you want a leash for a cat  
d. Not a dog, a cat

e. Finally agree to buy a leash for a small dog because they don't sell leashes for cats

f. Hang your head in shame as you leave while the staff of the store ruthlessly mocks your purchase

2. Attempt to wrestle the leash onto your cat

3. Realize that cats have five ends out of six with pointy bits on them, and are willing to apply these to you if you try to put a leash on them

4. Bleed  
5. Attempt to put the leash on the cat while it is sleeping

6. Realize that your "cat-like" reflexes are still not as good as your cats simply "cat" reflexes

7. Bleed  
8. Sedate your cat by either tranquilizer dart or by putting something in their food.

9. Put leash part-way on cat only to realize the cat wasn't as unconscious as you thought

10. Bleed  
11. Use much more tranquilizer to really put the cat out  
a. Watch the cat fall asleep  
b. Notice the cat doesn't seem to be breathing

c. Wonder if you killed your cat, question the morality of and then curse the cat policy

d. Get swiped by your still

seemingly unconscious cat

12. Give up  
If you do somehow manage to get a leash on the cat, e-mail me, and I'll give you a step by step guide as to how to get a cat to just walk around while on a leash, rather than jumping and climbing and charging you with claws out[4]. And remember, it's always a good idea to call the local Red Cross organization to insure they have sufficient quantity of your blood type before attempting to put a leash on a cat.

(Footnotes)

1 Attending The Tech staff lunch and listening to other people who have done actual research.

2 As housing explained it "we're not the boss of tiger-bot-hesh"

3 Also, few cats have tattoos that say things like "thug 4 life" with the exception being Velcro, the cat reported on in last week's Tech.

4 Fat chance.



*oh god how did this get here  
i am not good with comptuer*

## A Chilling Story of the Future (and Past)

BY: ANDY DOWNARD

I figured out how to travel through time while I was delivering the Hartford (CT) Courant to neighborhood subscribers in 1992. And no, it's not any far-fetched plan that relies on a Delorian, sling-shooting a spaceship around the sun, or some other silly idea that Hollywood made famous. It is an elegant yet simple solution that could enable the few politicians and stars who could afford it to undo their recent gaffe that is spreading like wildfire on YouTube (pay attention George Allen and Michael Richards). Now, after twelve years of perfecting my idea and addressing all conceivable objections, I am ready to share it with the world.

First, travel to one of the Earth's poles. Not the magnetic poles, mind you, but one of the points about which the

planet rotates. Once you get there, the difficult part is over as you can freely move about the time zones with little effort. Want to go three days into the future? Hold on to the North Pole with your left hand and do a 720. Britney, want to undo that whole K-Fed thing? Left hand, South Pole, run around it until you are dizzy. As for Clippers fans looking to leap to a championship year... well, good luck.

The only objection worth mentioning was best articulated by my good friend and the Page House RA, Mike Shearn. When I shared my time travel scheme with him, he immediately retorted, "Sorry, doesn't work. Branch cut." I had a flashback to Niles Pierce lecturing in ACM 95/100. Yeah, I guess this could be a problem...in theory. But I still think it's worth a try.



The famous DeLorian. Photo from delorian.com

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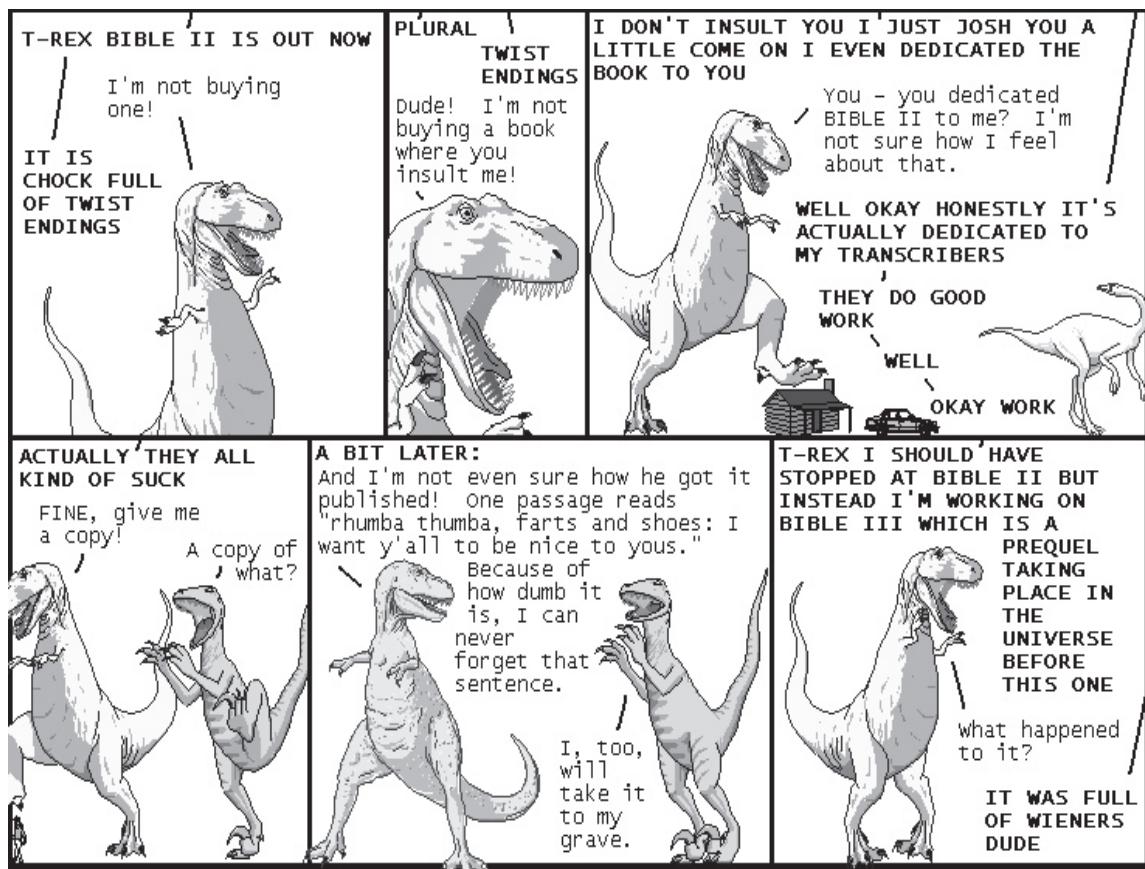
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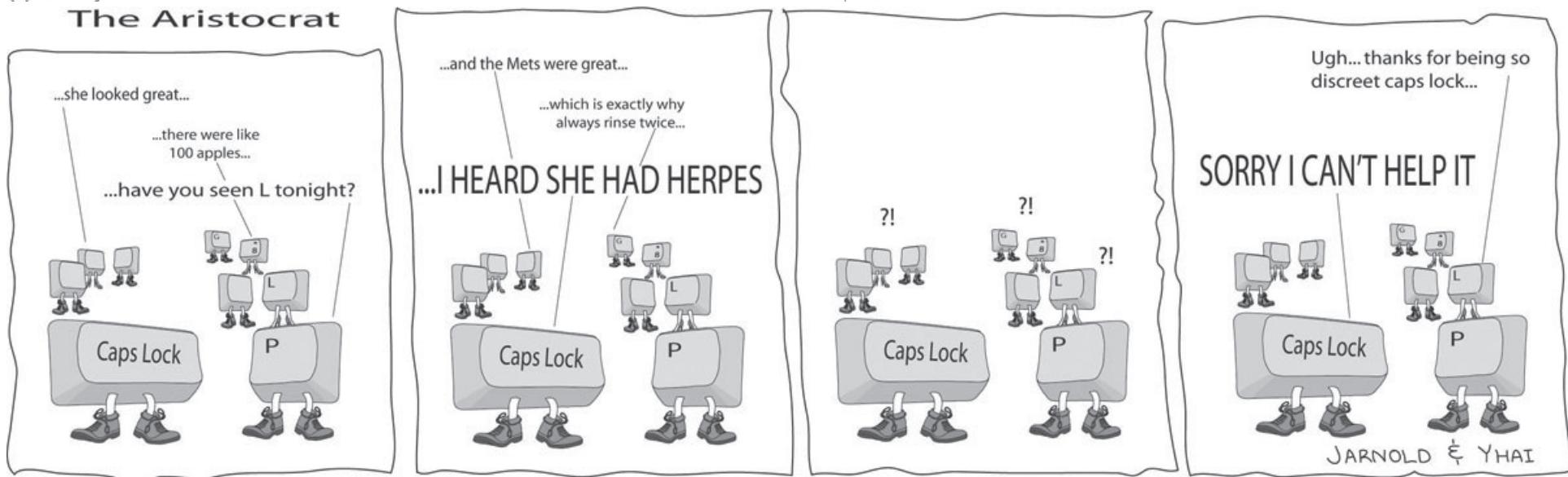
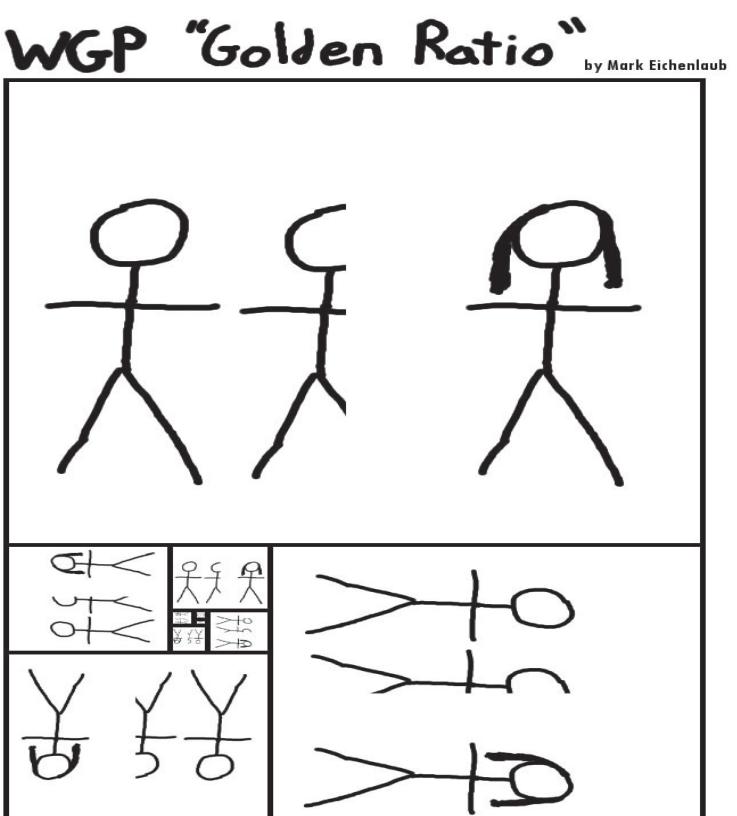
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Puzzle from <http://www.websudoku.com/>

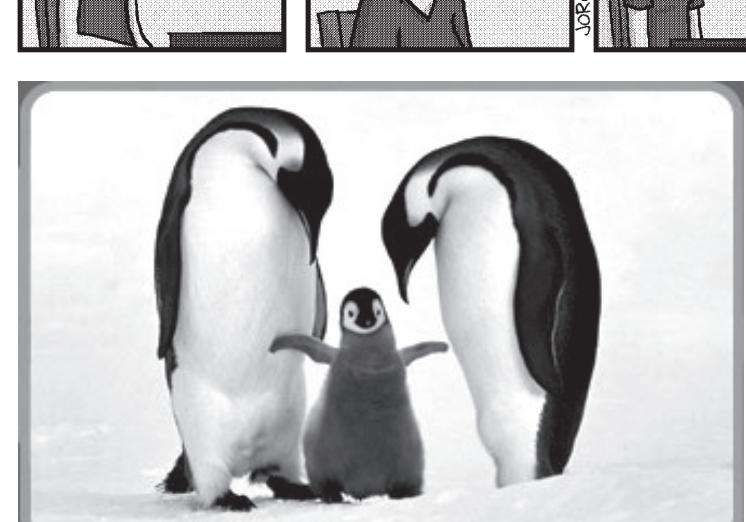


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# XKCD Comics by Randall Munroe



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