

# THE CALIFORNIA TECH



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## Chameau Dives Into Presidential Duties

BY: CHANDRA BARNETT

*See related story on Page 5: Baltimore Resumes Professorial Duties*

Caltech officially welcomed Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau to the Presidency on the first of September. However, as we are quickly coming to discover, our energetic new President is not to be stopped by a calendar.

Arriving in Pasadena in mid-August, Chameau immediately began meeting with faculty, staff, and administrators, preparing himself for a smooth transition into the office. "We did take a brief vacation also, to San Francisco," said Chameau, but in the next breath he admitted that between visits to his friends, he spent a great deal of his so-called time off meeting with some of the Caltech Trustees who live in the Bay Area.

In spite of the hectic schedule, Dr. Chameau has been enjoying the chance to get to know many different members of the Caltech community. Two weeks ago,

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Photo by Matthew Glassman

Former-President David Baltimore (foreground) looks on as his successor, Jean-Lou Chameau, addresses the Caltech community for one of his first times.

## Student Leaders Welcome Newcomers, Prepare For South House Reopenings

BY: VIBHA LALJANI

Welcoming new students and a new President to the community aside, Caltech's student government organizations have a busy year ahead as they are faced with the logistical difficulties of a mid-year move into the renovated South Houses, in addition to associated revisions in administrative policies. Amongst other changes, South House residents will need to adjust to a new security system (see related story on Page 1), an updated mural policy, and revised Pasadena building code concerning hot tubs.

The President of the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology (ASCIT), Todd Gingrich, is optimistic about President Chameau's integration into Caltech culture. "The new president has a lot to learn about undergradu-

ate culture, its problems and possible solutions. The best thing to do would be to provide him with information as soon as he can start meeting us," said Todd. "Although we can't make decisions, we should try to make sure he has enough information before he comes to resolutions. The [Board of Directors (BoD)] hopes to help make his transition into undergraduate life very smooth. In fact, I can see him doing something fun, like giving out donuts."

Some of the other changes Caltech greets this year are turning out to be a lot of work, especially for the IHC and ASCIT BoD.

IHC Chair, Craig Montuori, said, "Many issues still remain before we move back into the South Houses. We need to 'rigorously test' the utilities in the South Houses with Tim Chang, Senior Director of the Institute Housing, af-

ter the Houses are finished but before they open to make sure as few things 'go wrong' as possible during the move in. No one wants a repeat of a lack of Internet or trash not being picked up when we first move in."

"We need to move all of the furniture and such back from St. Luke's, and I'm told things are piled in a crazy fashion," said Craig. "It's a minor issue, but it will probably take some time to sort things out, there."

"We need to follow up with the construction to make sure no last minute surprises have happened," said Craig. "[So far] we haven't heard anything about major problems, and the last few visits have shown mostly-completed Houses."

Craig continued, "We anticipate another interesting Rotation due to the mods. They provide an

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## South Houses to Reopen With Card-Reading Security System

BY: VIBHA LALJANI

Open doors, combination locks, keys, card swipes, biometrics and several other options were under consideration by the InterHouse Committee (IHC), Housing and the Security office for the new security system at the South Houses. Ultimately, it was decided that when the houses reopen in the winter, the doors will be opened only by physical keys and swiping ID cards.

With regard to student input into the security system, Craig Montuori, the IHC Chairman, said "The IHC had been pushing biometrics to students after one of our last meetings in May. Unfortunately, a decision was made in early July, but we did not find out until mid-August, that biometrics

were being discarded as an option due to 'incompatibility,' with no further details provided.

"Tom Mannion will be working with Vance Bjorn, a Ruddock alumnus, and DigitalPersona up in Seattle to try to work out the problems. We'll have further updates as the year goes on."

However, even if the difficulties with biometrics are overcome, the will likely not be installed until after the residents move back into the South Houses this winter.

"The IHC felt, in May, that card swipes were extremely inconvenient," said Craig. "Moreover, since there was a guarantee that we'd still be able to get into the South Houses using a key, we decided that the biometrics

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### In This Issue

More Caltech parking issues  
Meet the replacement of Andre Mallie  
Can you solve a Sudoku in 11 seconds? I can't.  
You Asked, Now Professors Answer  
Sports At Tech. Yes, They Exist.

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Caltech Men's Soccer Team Wins Conference Game!

Full story next week.

Speed Bumps Moved by Rudds

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# The Outside World



BY: HAMILTON FALK

## Plane Crashes In Amazon rainforest, No Survivors Found

Gol Airlines Flight 1907 crashed approximately 20 miles from the city of Peixoto de Azevedo in Brazil on Friday. After an extensive search Brazilian officials declared that none of the 155 passengers on the flight survived the crash, making it the deadliest air crash in Brazilian history.

Initially it was reported that the plane clipped a corporate jet before crashing, but a later report stated that more investigation was required before the details could be confirmed.

The flight is believed to have hit the ground moving at more than 300 miles per hour, making it unlikely that any survivors would be found, although the difficulty of searching the jungle leaves some hope that someone might be found. Gol is Brazil's first low-fare airline and has been operating since 2001. The plane was less than a month old with only a few hundred hours of flying time.



## Prominent House Republican Resigns After Email Scandal

Rep. Mark Foley, R-Fla. resigned after it was revealed that he had exchanged raunchy e-mails with a teenaged boy. The boy, 16 at the time of the e-mails, was a former congressional page who talked to his parents after Foley asked him to send a picture.

Foley also engaged in a series of sexually explicit instant messages with other male pages, saying such things as "Do I make you a little horny?" and suggesting boys strip down.

Foley introduced legislation to protect children from adults across the internet as chairman of the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus. The House Ethics Committee will decide whether an investigation is necessary.

Foley's resignation has forced Florida Republicans to find a new candidate six weeks before the election in what is suddenly a very competitive district. Democrats need to win a net of 15 seats in Congress to gain control of the House. Ballots have already been printed with Foley's name and cannot be changed but any votes for Foley will be counted toward the party's replacement.

## School Shootings Occur In Wisconsin And Colorado

A pair of shootings in US High Schools has cast a sad light on the beginning of the 2006-07 school year.

A man entered Platte Canyon High School in Colorado on Wednesday and took several girls hostage. During a SWAT attempt to rescue the girls the man shot one of them and killed himself. On Friday a student in southwestern Wisconsin shot the principle before being subdued by a teacher and other students.

In the Colorado shooting the man was Duane Morrison, a petty criminal who entered the school between classes with two hand guns and claims of possessing a bomb and began asking questions about female students. Morrison took six girls hostage and reportedly began molesting them. Upon hearing the distress of the girls a SWAT team entered the room and shot Morrison several times but was unable to stop him from killing 16-year-old Emily Keyes and then himself.

The Wisconsin shooting occurred when a student threatened others with a shotgun and hand gun. After a janitor wrestled away the shotgun the student brandished the handgun and told a student looking out of a

class room "you better run."

The principle, John Klang, then confronted the student and was shot before several students and a teacher subdued the student. Klang died of his wounds in a hospital later. The student was detained by police and will be tried for murder.

## FDA Lifts Most of Spinach Ban

The FDA has lifted a consumer warning against most fresh spinach issued following an outbreak of E. coli two weeks ago. The revised warning now applies only to Natural Selection brand spinach (including Dole spinach) with a "Best if Used By" dates of August 17 through October 1, which the company recalled earlier this month. The E. coli outbreak sickened 187 people in 26 states and resulted in the death of at least one person.

## Last Israeli Troops Leave Lebanon

Israel withdrew the last of its troops from southern Lebanon Saturday, in accordance with the UN cease-fire resolution that ended its month-long war with Hezbollah.

The conflict, however, still continues.

Hezbollah is still holding captive the two Israeli

soldiers whose abduction sparked the war. The return of these soldiers is another key point of the UN cease-fire agreement.

The 34-day war left more than 150 Israelis and over 1,100 Lebanese citizens dead, over 5,000 people injured, and about 1.5 million people displaced from their homes.

## Internet Gambling Ban Tacked On To Port Security Bill

A provision that would prohibit internet gambling was added to an unrelated bill dealing with Port Security this Friday. The port security bill is intended to fund additional inspection and radiation detectors in US ports.

The internet gambling portion of the bill will make it difficult to gamble online by making it illegal for banks and credit card companies to make payments to online gambling sites. The two issues were attached in an effort to pass them both before a large portion of Congress leaves Washington to campaign for the fall elections.

Compiled from CNN, BBC and Yahoo News.

# Announcements

## Learn About Working For The Tech

If you're interested in working for *The Tech* this school year, please feel free to attend our orientation meeting.

We will meet in our office, located in Mod #4, near the Fleming trailers, at noon. We will provide pizza for interested recruits.

The meeting will briefly introduce some of our staff, our organizational structure, how you can receive assignments, and briefly cover some basics of journalistic writing.

For more information, attend or email [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu).

## Caltech Y Celebrates 90th Birthday

BY: JUNE WICKS

Come celebrate with us! We're throwing a party to commemorate the Caltech Y's 90th year. This Thursday, October 5th, we're going to be throwing the biggest, baddest birthday party this campus has seen in a long while.

You may be wondering, what is the Caltech Y? We're the group that brings you decompression, hiking trips, Alternative Spring Break, various social activism speakers, and much

more! We were founded 90 years ago as part of the YMCA, and are still going strong.

Here's a rundown of the evening's events:

At 6pm there will be a barbecue for the entire Caltech community. Come eat dinner, listen to live music, and enter to win one of numerous raffle prizes.

At 7:30pm we will be screening Al Gore's the Inconvenient Truth in the Sherman Fairchild Library's amphitheater. Will Al Gore come? He has yet to say no

## InterHouse Committee Selects New Student Representatives To Other Campus Committees

### Freshman Admissions Committee

- Elette Boyle
- Sarah Ferguson
- Issac Garcia-Munoz
- Maria Gutowski
- Cindy Ko
- Kelly Lin
- Lisa Lyons
- Deepak Mishra
- Lydia Ng
- Kevin Noertker
- Sara Peek
- Harrison Stein
- Abdul-Ahad Tariq
- Jane Wang
- Helena Wang
- Angela Zah

### Foreign Students and Scholars

- Vibha Laljani – Rep
- Robin Abraham – Alt
- Esther Wang – Alt

### Scholarships and Financial Aid

- Abhishek Gulati – Rep
- Vickie Pon – Rep
- Leighland Feinman – Alt
- Kevin Noertker – Alt

### Health Committee

- Csilla Felsen – Rep
- Erin Flanagin – Rep
- Vickie Pon – Alt
- Simona Tescu – Alt

### Athletics and PE Committee

- Erin Flanagin – Rep
- Kevin Noertker – Rep
- Eric Tai – Alt

### Student Housing Committee

- Sean Mattingly – Rep
- Alex Padilla – Rep
- Issac Garcia-Munoz – Alt

### Grievances Committee

- Jonathan Gardner – Rep
- Caleb Ng – Rep
- Angela Chang – Alt

### Computer Advisory Committee

- Kenneth Heafield - Rep
- Arcady Goldmints-Orlov – Rep
- Angela Chang – Alt

### Upperclass Admissions Committee

- Maria Gutowski – Rep
- Lena Nyugen – Rep
- Simona Tescu – Rep
- Vera te Velde – Rep
- Hyungmin Park – Alt
- Sue Shiao – Alt

*These selections were made shortly before Caltech's summer break, but most of the individuals did not begin their service until this term.*

# Renovated Houses Conjoined With Renovated Policies

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teresting dynamic due to increased interaction between Houses, and since they aren't permanent Housing, prefrosh could be unduly influenced by their appearance and atmosphere."

## Mural Policy

Craig said, "Any change to the mural policy will affect all of the Houses equally. It is assumed that the North Houses will eventually be demolished and rebuilt, with similar restrictions to apply."

Highlighting the current version of the revised Mural Policy, Cathy Jurca, the Master of Student Houses (MOSH), said, "Students who wish to put a mural up, and who have gone through the necessary channels within their house, need only to inform the Housing Office that a mural will be going up."

"At this point they are strongly recommended, but not required, to consult with Tim Chang on the design of the mural in advance, because murals that are offensive or otherwise detract from the attractiveness of the houses will need to come down," said the MOSH. "The procedures for removing objectionable murals, which have several stages, are outlined in the policy."

"In an early version of a mural policy, written by the former IHC Chair and ASCIT President, the very

last appeal on a mandate to take down a mural was handled by Tom Mannion, Assistant Vice President of Campus Life. In the interest of spreading out some of the responsibility for these decisions, we made Tom, the MOSH, and the Chair of the Student Housing Committee (currently Ken Libbrecht) the ones who as a group handle the last appeal."

Another concern regarding the murals is the frequent disconnect between the goals of alums and current students. Many alums want to see the Houses as embossed in their fond memories of Caltech, which may or may not coincide with the murals of choice for current students.

The IHC Chair said, "Our job is to discuss the Mural Policy that may make repainting easier, but no formal discussion has taken place between the IHC and any alumni that may be interested in having their opinions heard in this matter. We would be open to hearing from any alumni, most likely through Margo Marshak, Vice President of Student Affairs, or the Alumni Association."

Craig considered it very important to point out the risks of abusing the Mural Policy. He explained that "One thing students risk by abusing the Mural Policy is that murals may be restricted to certain portions of the House or eventually even forbidden, since the Trustees have been displeased

with some of the 'wall art' around the Houses."

Keep in mind that there is a distinction between something classy (but bizarre), like the Library wall in Ricketts, and the "Bomb the Pentagon" wall in Dabney (which also had a hole in the wall, if memory serves). We hope that the Trustees will understand the difference between the two, even if some may not like the Library wall.

Todd elaborated that the same is true for abusing the renovated Houses, in general. There is a distinction between 'daily living' and 'malicious damage' which requires students to be especially careful in their treatment of the South Houses. He said, "Alums and administration feel that students trash the houses. While, students feel that the damage happens over the years. This is a test to see which party is in the right. If students are found in the wrong, we may not have all the privileges we enjoy now."

## Hot Tub Policy

House hot tubs are in hot water with the new policy. Craig said, "The Hot Tub policy, as we understand it, is that no hot tubs will be allowed to be constructed, due to Pasadena zoning law. However, old hot tubs will be 'grandfathered in'", said IHC. Thus, Dabney and Fleming courtyards will bear hot tubs, as they did in the past.



"ASCIT president Todd Gingrich attempts to remove IHC Chair Craig from the gene pool"

Tim Chang said, "We will need to follow the Health Department guidelines for a hot tub (ADA requirements, etc). These requirements are creating problems for the Dabney hot tub. We found out that the requirements make the hot tub prohibitively expensive and very large. If we could raise the funds to install the

hot tub (~\$20,000 only for the plans; much more for the materials and labor), it would take up a quarter of the Dabney courtyard."

Any questions or concerns may be directed to Craig Montouri ([montouri@its.caltech.edu](mailto:montouri@its.caltech.edu)) and/or Todd Gingrich ([gingrich@its.caltech.edu](mailto:gingrich@its.caltech.edu)).

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**Information session October 19, 3:30 pm Brennen Conference Room**

To apply for a position, log on to [www.career.caltech.edu/joblistings/index.shtml](http://www.career.caltech.edu/joblistings/index.shtml). If this isn't possible, please send a resume and cover letter stating your GPA and standardized test scores, broken down by section where applicable, to [jobs@deshaw.com](mailto:jobs@deshaw.com).

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# Pasadena Residents File Complaints: Techers Parking On Public Streets

BY: ANNA HISZPANSKI

With approximately 5,000 people on campus each day, 3,000 of whom commute, parking can be an issue for Techers. However, the parking situation is also affecting those outside of Caltech, as well.

Residents in the area south of California Boulevard, especially those residents of Lombardy, Holladay, and Arden roads, have recently filed complaints with Pasadena about Caltech affiliated people parking in front of their homes. Residents are particularly upset because Caltech's nearby California Boulevard parking structure, completed in the spring of 2005, has hundreds of empty spaces.

In response to citizens' complaints, the city held a zoning meeting in June and found Caltech responsible for underutilization of the parking structure.

As part of the ruling, the city attached three more conditions to the conditional use permit (CUP) Caltech obtained for operating the California parking structure. The city also ruled to reopen the permit every half year if it feels Caltech is not complying with the conditions.

Hall Daily, Assistant Vice President of the Government and Community Relations Office of Caltech, has been working closely on the parking matter and finds the city's rationale "ironic since the parking structure was created to make a surplus."

"We were almost at capacity on parking, and we [Caltech and the city] knew that the parking structure would put us at a surplus of parking space for about four or five years," said Daily, referring to the fact that the city of Pasadena reviewed and approved Caltech's development plans.

The Institute appealed the decision, but the city again sided with residents during the appeals hearing that was held September 20th.

"Caltech is opposing [the



Photo by Matthew Glassman

A typical view within Caltech's new parking structure on California Boulevard, underneath the North Field. Much to the dismay of the residents of nearby Lombardy, Holladay, and Arden roads, many Caltech employees choose to utilize free parking on those streets rather than the Caltech structure.

decision by the city] because it does not think the surplus of parking is a [CUP-] revocable offense," said Daily.

Caltech has taken its own steps to try to remedy the situation with its neighbors. The Institute invited residents to discuss their concerns and complaints with administrators. Three meetings, which were attended by 28 residents, were held throughout the summer to examine potential steps to improve the parking situation.

Among steps Caltech has taken, the Institute is trying to increase communication of the parking problem and its effects to its employees and also has more strongly promoted the parking incentive program previously established (for details, see <http://www.parking.caltech.edu/rideshare.html>). Additionally, Caltech asked the valet service at The Athenaeum and contractors working on the South Houses renovation to park

vehicles only in designated campus spaces.

Caltech's Parking Committee is also considering possible solutions to the parking problem. Michael Burnam-Fink, the undergraduate representative to the committee, said "Having Caltech people parking on streets has always been an issue, but it's particularly been an issue recently with contractors who are working on the renovation of the South Houses parking on the street."

One solution offered by Caltech to residents is to create restricted parking in the form of hourly parking or residential permit parking.

"People near Pasadena City College developed restricted parking fifteen years ago," said Daily. "The Polytechnic School created restricted parking about three years ago. The only one place left [in the surrounding area of Caltech] without restricted parking is in the area of Lombardy, Holladay, and Arden roads."

According to Daily, the majority of residents have appeared uninterested thus far to petition for parking restrictions.

"Essentially, they believe that Caltech itself should take care of this problem," said Daily. "One thing that they want Caltech to do is to require employees and students to park on campus and not on the streets."

However, Caltech has stated in a letter to local residents that such a resolution is impossible. Legally,

under state Labor Code 450, Caltech cannot "require employees to park on campus." Only undergraduate students are not considered employees and could be held to such requirements.

"Caltech does have the right to force students to park in specific places because they're not employed but are here under a contract," said Daily. "The irony is that the undergrads do not appear to be the problem. We've told the city that we don't want to put a requirement on our students if they're not part of the problem."

The city and neighbors also suggested that Caltech eliminate its parking fees in order to decrease parking on residential streets.

However, the administration and Board of Trustees implemented parking fees in late 2005 as a part of the campaign to eliminate the budget deficit and have stated that the Institute cannot afford to provide free parking. Additionally, Burnam-Fink is not sure if such an action would solve them problem.

"The [California] parking structure opened at end of spring term of 2005, and at the beginning of the fall term of 2005, they instituted the parking fee system. So there's really no good data on how the parking structure would be used if fees were changed," said Burnam-Fink.

Burnam-Fink said the problem ultimately sums to the fact that "It's easier to park on the streets than it is to pay money and fill out

forms—even if the forms are very easy."

One solution Caltech is looking into is an alternative parking fee system to try to entice more commuters to park in the structures.

"The parking committee has agreed to look at the fee system and see if the current rate structure is the way to go," said Daily. "An example of what they're looking at is to establish an incentive for drivers if they park in the most distant spots from campus."

According to Daily, some city officials suggested that Caltech provide shuttles from the parking structures to campus.

"The zoning hearing officer who suggested that option obviously hadn't been here at Caltech because the parking structure is right across the street from the campus," said Daily.

Thus far, no immediate perfect solution to the problem appears to be in sight, and Daily is hesitant to give a date when the issue may be resolved.

"If you're a neighbor, the ideal solution is that people won't park on your streets," said Daily. "From Caltech's standpoint, the ideal solution is to have as few Caltech people as possible parking on the residential streets since it creates enmity with the neighborhood... But the idea that you can solve a parking problem anywhere by a certain date is naïve. Even if that parking problem dissipates, there will probably be another parking problem somewhere else."

## No Biometric Sensors For House Reopenings

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would be acceptable.

"Some people do have privacy concerns that their fingerprints will be stored. However, I'm told that the system is a 'one-way hash generation' that assigns a number to your fingerprint, based on certain key points that it reads. The number is stored rather than the fingerprint."

Vance Bjorn and Srdjan Sobajic, Ruddock classes of '95 and '96 respectively, first developed and implemented the biometrics system in Ruddock's in-house convenience store. They then went on to found DigitalPersona which has developed the technology for a wide variety of uses.

# Chameau Joins Caltech Community

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 he spent three days at Frosh Camp, an experience he said was extremely valuable to him as he begins his own freshman year at Caltech – not to mention a lot of fun! “... we are small in terms of numbers, and we need to leverage that... We should never do a thing just because other universities are doing it.”

Back home at Tech, he continues to seize every opportunity to meet new people and hear their views on living and working at Caltech. “I try to encourage chance meetings,” said Chameau, pointing out that a one-on-one meeting offers opportunities “not only to talk, but also to listen.”

Though arriving at Caltech can be a lot for anyone to absorb at once, Dr. Chameau maintains that it has been “a very easy adjustment.” The campus culture of openness and trust has been a great help – Chameau has been pleasantly surprised by

the receptive nature of the Caltech community at large. “When you are fortunate to deal with really intelligent people,” he remarks, “it makes a big difference.” The sunny climate hasn’t

hurt either... “Pasadena,” quips Chameau, “is not too hard a place to get used to!”

About his hopes for Caltech in the next few years, Chameau has this to say:

“One thing is clear to me... we are small in terms of numbers, and we need to leverage that. The work we do, and the education we provide, should reflect that. We should never do a thing just because other universities are doing it.” The opportunity for attention to the individual student or project should not be a wasted one; in his prior experiences with larger universities, a frequent refrain amongst the administration was “If only we were a smaller school...” In this vein, Chameau is eager to see us take full advantage of our unique identity as an organization which is both very power-

ful and well-respected, and very small.

“There were many reasons,” Dr. Chameau remarked, “why I wanted to come to Caltech. What compelled me to come was ... the opportunity to work with unusually smart and intelligent people. In fact, the more I talk to the students and faculty, the more I find they are even smarter than I had expected!” In spite of the tendency for scholars and educators to become highly opinionated, Chameau finds himself impressed with the degree of open-mindedness he has encountered. “Even among those who have the strongest opinions... they are motivated and supported by deep thinking, and the people remain willing to examine them.”

Towards the end of our discussion, it came to light that despite an entire month in office, Chameau has not yet experienced that Presidential rite of passage: Ponding. As stated in this publication several months ago, he is quite willing to participate, with one condition: his wife has requested that she be notified in advance, so that she can be sure he won’t be wearing his most expensive suit.

# Baltimore Resumes Professorial Duties

BY: JON SENN

David Baltimore’s reign as Caltech’s seventh President drew to an official close on September 1st. As a continuing Caltech professor of biology, Baltimore plans to devote much of his newly freed time to expanding research in his lab.

The job of President was a time-consuming role, says Baltimore. “I spent most of my waking hours as President when I was in Pasadena... I also was able to sneak away to my laboratory for a few hours a week.”

In spite of his busy schedule as President, Baltimore was able to maintain a productive lab. Even when he was only able to find a few hours a week for his research, he oversaw a staff of fifteen active researchers and regularly co-authored papers throughout his Presidency.

With so much more time now available, Baltimore hopes to lead an even more productive research schedule. “I will spend more time on laboratory work and more time consulting on various issues,” says Baltimore. “I have doubled the space of my laboratory in anticipation of having more time to direct research.” Ad-

ditionally, he hopes to help start several companies in his spare time.

“I enjoyed greatly being President of Caltech and will miss the responsibilities and the opportunities to contribute to the success of the school...[I am] glad that I had the experience but now can move on to other pursuits.”

Baltimore hopes that ultimately he has “left Caltech a little stronger as an institution than when [he] took over. Receiving the Moore gift was the key element that allowed all of the Divisions of Caltech to undertake research in new directions during my nine years as President.”

He does say that “I wish that I had had the time to get to know more of the students personally. You are an extraordinary group of people. I gave that advice to Dr. Chameau but he hardly needed it because he has an obvious affinity for students.”

At the interview’s close, Baltimore said “going from President to Professor will be quite a change but because I am staying in the community, I hope to continue contributing to its quality and effectiveness both in teaching and research.”

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Welcome back to campus for the 2006 – 2007 academic year! We look forward to meeting you on campus this Fall.

**Resume Drop Deadline: Friday, October 13, 2006**  
**Interview Date: Thursday, October, 19, 2006**

Please submit your application online via the MonsterTRAK recruiting system.



# New CDS Manager Seeks Student Feedback

BY: MATTHEW GLASSMAN

Before most students even started packing for the move back to Caltech, Peter Daily was already hard at work as the new General Manager for Dining Services. Among his many responsibilities, Daily's main focus will be improving the existing board program.

"I've been here for only 30 days and I've learned a lot," Daily commented in an interview last week.

When André Mallié resigned in March of the last academic year, the General Manager position remained vacant until Daily arrived in late August. CDS was originally created during Mallié's time at Caltech and has since won a number of various awards. Daily's goal is to win another one of those awards for the board pro-

gram.

"He knows that board is not well received by the students and really wants to make it better," said Erin White, the current Food Chair. "I don't know too much about this award but I think it's possible."

During Rotation, Daily could be found roaming around from house to house, making sure the meals went as smoothly as possible. One afternoon last week, since he did not have card access to the Mods at the time, Daily had to hop the fence to get the lunches into the South Houses on time.

"[Peter Daily] is very student oriented," White commented. "He comes and watches football with us on Sundays."

Whenever he meets new students, the conversation usually ends up on some aspect of Caltech Dining. A good 20 minute conversation is more than enough for

Daily to get an idea of what other improvements students expect.

"I want to be accessible. We need feedback. I'm not going to be offended," Daily explained. "We're trying to get people to understand that we're here to serve. My philosophy is that the dining department is all about customer service."

To take on this new job at Caltech, Daily left a similar position at the Santa Anita Racetrack. There he managed over 400 employees in multiple venues to serve thousands of customers during the season. He also spent some years at a resort hotel in northern Michigan. He started out as a dishwasher and worked his way up to manage the entire hotel.

"He genuinely cares about the student body," junior Ryan Bogner said. "He went on a tour with us and was very interested,

not only in the kitchens, but also about how the students live and the traditions in the dining halls."

When Mallié managed CDS, there was talk of getting rid of the waiting system in the houses, which many students were opposed to. Daily is not currently considering that as an option.

"I'm not going to get rid of house waiters. That's not on my agenda or my boss's," assured Daily. "I don't want to destroy any traditions."

Daily was in a fraternity in college, which he describes as "one step away from Animal House." Regarding his experience of dinners in the houses, he recalled that "some things were a bit eye-opening," referring particularly to flying bread rolls.

One of Daily's top concerns is having food served hot at dinners.

"We're trying to get good qual-

ity food, and we want to make sure it's served at the right temperature. Otherwise, you'd much rather cook it on your own," Daily said.

Nevertheless, he feels that CDS and the waiting system can work together.

As far as getting healthier alternatives worked into the board program, Daily has been working with Jane Curtis, the Health Educator.

"We're trying to go out of the way to make sure students with special needs are taken care of," Daily said. "Tom Mannion, Mariko Marshak, and I want to see healthier options out there."

The main thing Daily wants to get out to students is that "if you've got a comment, let me know. I want to figure out how together we can make this situation work well."

## Prank o' the Week

### Ruddock House Borrowed Speed Bumps from Holliston

BY: SONIA TIKOO

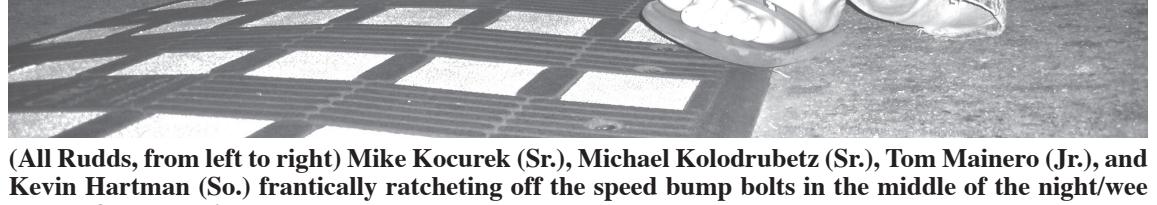
In the wee hours of the morning on September 21, a small fellowship of Rudds and a Mole performed a remarkable magic trick: they made the Holliston speed bumps disappear.

A few hours later, Ruddock House discovered that the floor of Alley 1 had suddenly been tiled yellow and black, finally providing a "safe" surface for students to walk on.

The story begins by the removal of carpeting in the North Houses, Ruddock, Lloyd, and Page for the installation of new floor covering. This stripping left the Houses looking relatively unpleasant—

some prefer the term "disgusting" in situations like this. This went on for a couple days, until selected Rudds said enough was enough. Therefore, upon receiving permission from Assistant Vice-President of Student Affairs Tom Mannion, a bunch of students set out to fix the problem by taking care of another thing they found relatively unpleasant—the speed bumps.

Beginning at three in the morning on the 21st, approximately five Ruddock House members began removing the speed bumps utilizing ratchet wrenches and good 'ol elbow grease. Of course, as every Techer knows, for every reaction, there is an equal and opposite reaction. The outcry was



(All Rudds, from left to right) Mike Kocurek (Sr.), Michael Kolodrubetz (Sr.), Tom Mainero (Jr.), and Kevin Hartman (So.) frantically ratcheting off the speed bump bolts in the middle of the night/wee hours of the morning.

immediate. Almost every passerby from Security to Caltech staff, to the Pasadena City Police stopped by to express their sentiments, whether they be admiration of student ingenuity, safety concerns, or in some cases, outright anger.

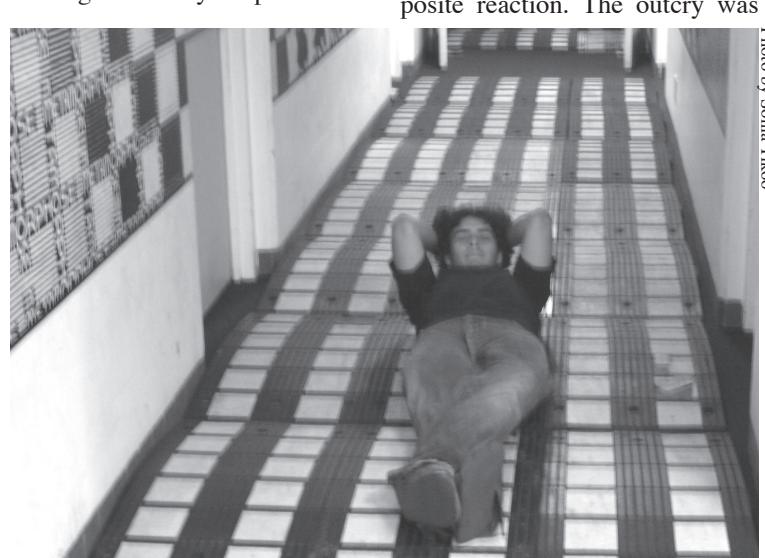
Especially unhappy with the night's events were Caltech's maintenance workers, who had worked very hard, for long hours,

to install the speed bumps in the first place. Additional issues of safety were raised; that is why the speed bumps are there in the first place.

Sophomore Kevin Hartman, who spearheaded the prank effort and dealt with all the repercussions himself, commented Sept. 23. "A couple days ago I decided to remove the speed bumps on Holliston with the help of various

Rudds and a mole or two. My pride makes me want to say that the seven hours and much hassle I went through to pull off this prank were worth it. Rationally I admit that it was kind of a stupid idea. And it is a stupid idea that has come back to bite me in the ass."

The speed bumps were re-installed by Ruddock House early last week.



Kevin Hartman (So.) lying on the speed bumps in Alley 1 in Ruddock at the completion of the prank.

### Speakers Discuss Marriage in Time for Coming Out Week

BY: ZACK RAMADAN

In celebration of National Coming Out Day on October 11th, PRISM has invited two guest speakers to give an evening talk about the debate over marriage rights. Chai Feldblum, a Professor of Law at Georgetown University, and Jenny Pizer, Senior Counsel at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, will discuss the quest for marriage equality for same-sex couples.

The marriage debate has been raging in this country for years. People in all communities share a wide range of opinions on the subject, many of which might be surprising.

Marriage is seen by many as an institution rooted in tradition. It has historically been a formal union between one man and one woman. Marriage is also closely entwined with religion, so that, to

many people, it is a contract not only under the law, but under God as well. Since many religions and cultures have no history of recognizing same-sex unions, their members are particularly loath to break with tradition. Furthermore, some religions condemn homosexuality altogether, making the recognition of a same-sex union wholly sacrilegious.

The argument for the confer-

ment of marriage rights to same-sex couples cuts starkly through arguments of tradition and religion, claiming that same-sex couples should be granted the same legal benefits and responsibilities of marriage granted to heterosexual couples: equal protection under the law. In a 2003 update to the Defense of Marriage Act, 1,138 such federal provisions were identified that pertained to marital status. (<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04353r.pdf>).

Interestingly, many people who

oppose marriage for same-sex couples nonetheless agree that such equal protection is due them. President Bush, for instance, who proposed the Federal Marriage Amendment to define marriage as between only one man and one woman, said in 2004 that he "view[s] the definition of marriage [as] different from legal arrangements that enable people to have rights."

Given this dichotomy of opinions, even from the same individual, many agree that the debate boils down simply to the word "marriage". Is marriage just defined by a piece of paper? Or is marriage so wrapped up in tradition that a separate but equal civil union must be devised for same-sex couples? These nuances of the debate are what make some question the pertinence and necessity of marriage in the first place.

There are people in both the LGBT and heterosexual com-

munities who do not agree with the fight for marriage rights, because they see marriage as an outdated and both-everyone institution that ties couples

down financially, forces traditional gender roles, and complicates the rights of the individuals involved. The benefits that marriage accords simply to encourage marriage should not exist.

There is also the debate over traditional families. Some people feel that the recognition of same-sex unions would endanger children by robbing them of a

mother or a father and lead to the breakdown of the American family. Others would argue that the divorce rate and the rise of ephemeral "Hollywood marriages" in America pose a more serious threat.

Miriam Feldblum and Jenny Pizer will be speaking at the Avery Library on Wednesday, October 11 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Dinner will be provided to attendees.

Readers may visit [rainbow.caltech.edu](http://rainbow.caltech.edu) to take a look at other events planned for Coming Out Week.

PRISM encourages readers to write a commentary piece for next week's Tech.



# Join us

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**Date:** 3 October 2006

**Time:** 3.30pm

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Summer Experience

# Teaches Volunteers and Makes Friends in Buenos Aires

**BY: CINDY KO**

In the US, you can go a full day without touching a single other person. In fact, any casual contact made is probably accidental, and most likely unwelcome. We value our personal space, giving it a whimsical name—a bubble—which makes it sound like we float through our day inside a delicate entity that no one can touch.

In Buenos Aires (BsAs), it's almost impossible to pass a day without pressing your cheek to the cheek of every person you meet that day. A warm greeting with an embrace and a kiss—it's a genuine way to say that you are glad to see someone.

This is probably a difficult thing for visitors from the US to adjust to at first, but it's also a difficult habit to wean oneself from after having spent two months in Argentina.

## The Experience:

On the Bishop Scholarship, I was volunteering in BsAs for a non-profit organization, called HelpArgentina, and taking Spanish lessons at a language school. In addition, I also shadowed a doctor who worked for the state clinics doing ultrasounds for patients living outside the city. The volunteer work turned out to be an excellent way to spend my time in Buenos Aires: I was using my Spanish constantly, I was being exposed to native Argentines, and I was doing something good for the community. I really value my experiences working at the public hospital in downtown BsAs and teaching English to children in the community center. By the third or fourth week, I was getting into a rhythm and speaking Spanish and living like a native. The Bishop funds generously covered all expenses related to school, transportation and school up to \$6000 (so long as I could prove it with a receipt!).

## The City and the People:

Split into multiple barrios with distinct personalities, the city of Buenos Aires has much history and diversity to offer. Puerto Madero, the section of town close to the River Plata, was once the site of endless trash barges and pollution.

After some measures taken by the city's government, it has become the newest and ritziest place in the city—complete with glass office buildings and endless rows of Italian restaurants.

Recoleta is a famous part of town for its museums, outdoor street fair, and especially for its cemetery, which houses the remains of Evita Perón. Palermo is closeby, offering everything from the city's best shopping to the best bars.

San Telmo is the historic birthplace of tango, the sensuous national dance of Argentina. Tourists and natives alike flock to San Telmo for dance lessons and milongas, or tango dance parties.

Not far from San Telmo is La Boca, a barrio known for its colorful houses, famous soccer team, and sketchy reputation at night.

The downtown sector of the city is called Retiro, and it houses the main hub for public transportation and the headquarters for every major business in BA. Belgrano, the neighborhood where I lived with my host family, is easily the nicest and most homey barrio in the city.

Formerly the English neighborhood back in the old days, the historic little houses are grouped into cute clumps and the area in general is safe enough to walk around at any hour of night.

To get around BsAs, public transportation is about as good as it gets. Seventy centavos—little more than a quarter—gets to all the major barrios and anywhere on the subte, or subway, line. Eighty centavos gets you even more places on the public bus system. If you're out later than 11pm (which happens almost every night), the taxis are cheap, readily available and conveniently fast; a

**Teaching English at the Conviven Community Center**

ride from one end of town to the other will probably cost you a bit more than \$5 US.

Porteños, or natives of Buenos Aires, are generally friendly and will do a lot to help you. Most people speak English, because it's taught in schools starting from around kindergarten age. Everyone dresses very stylishly, from young kids to grandmas, because looking good is extremely important.

Culturally, they hate being referred to as South Americans, because they think of themselves as Europeans. Often times, they will emphasize that they are descended from Italian/English/German heritages, and not from any race found in South America. Thus, I did experience a few incidences of prejudice, being non-European, and furthermore, an American ("Sos una amiga de Bush?"), but I considered those encounters as part of experiencing the real Buenos Aires.

Anyway, being able to speak Spanish sort of 'made up for it'.

Of course, I don't mean to shed a bad light on Buenos Aires: overall, my experience with the people was more than pleasant. I loved my host family, I loved the organization that I worked for, and I really loved the kids that I taught at the community center.

## The Food

Cuisine in Buenos Aires is dominated by Italian influence, so of course pizza and pasta are staples in every café and restaurant. However, one can find distinctly Argentine foods just as easily. Empanadas, a kind of hot pocket filled with anything from chicken to corn, are found on every street corner. Alfajores (sandwich cookies filled with dulce de leche) and medialunas (sweet croissants) are sold in every bakery and café. And of course there is the helado! Technically, it's Italian style gelato, but there's something better and more exciting about the helado in Buenos Aires.

Even though I was there in winter—BsAs is below the equator—I had an helado nearly every day. Probably some of the best ice cream I've ever had in my life, for just around \$0.75US a cone.

Actually, meals in general were super cheap: \$5US is considered an expensive meal and it's only \$4US for a liter of imported Belgian beer. The best part about eating out is you can sit and stay in a restaurant for as long as you want, and the waiters will never rush you out. I think I stayed eight hours in a restaurant once, ordering lunch, then dinner, then dessert from the same seat. My bill came out to be around seventy pesos, or a little over twenty bucks.

## The Nightlife

Buenos Aires is famous for its nightclubs that open at 2am and close at 7am. Typically, young people have a late dinner at 10pm, go bar hopping at 12am, and by that time, the city's best clubs are opening their doors. Some good ones that fill to the brim on

weekends: Opera Bay, a club in Pto. Madero that resembles the Sydney Opera House; Asia de Cuba, an asian fusion restaurant and dance club; and Club Mint, a spot on the riverside that offers multiple dance rooms. Pretty much everyone between the ages of 16 and 26 is out for the whole night on weekends. So, you ask: with my busy schedule of Spanish classes and three volunteer projects, did I have time to go out all night? Why of course; missing out on one of the best club scenes in the world would be quite the shame.

## The Aftermath:

Since arriving back in the US a few weeks ago, I've made my adjustments accordingly. I no longer hoard receipts every time I purchase a cookie, I no longer kiss people the minute I see them, I no longer stay out until 8am, and I no longer cringe when I spend more than 5 bucks on a meal. These are things I was used to and that

loved doing in BsAs, but I've let go of them to be able to get on track again for school. However, the one thing I haven't let go of is my volunteer work for HelpArgentina.

Before leaving Buenos Aires, I agreed to become a Social Ambassador for the organization and help raise funds for the service projects that I was working on. Instead of letting Buenos Aires slip into a memory of a summer well spent, this is my way of keeping my connection to Argentina alive. It's something that I feel very passionately about and I plan to keep doing it here at Caltech and wherever else I end up. By doing so, I can continue serving the same people that I was helping when I was back in Argentina. It's just as if I never left, and that's the way I like it.

**In front of the Palacio de Aguas Corrientes**

Photo by Cindy Ko

# Top Tips for Techers to Prevent Identity Theft

**BY: PATTYL KASPARIAN**

## The VP of Marketing and Development of the Caltech Employees' Credit Union gives tips to avoid identity theft.

College students face about the same risk of having their identity stolen as the average person -- roughly one in 30.

Actual incidents of identity theft have decreased slightly in the last year, but thieves are stealing more and causing more damage. The average take: \$6,383, according to the Better Business Bureau. And, even worse, it takes an average of 40 hours to straighten out the mess, according to the study.

For most students, the threat of identity theft is probably pretty low on the priority list, since college students have a lot on their minds. However, there are several steps that students can take to reduce chances of becoming a victim just by being aware and a little more careful. Here are some things to try:

### 1. Guard your mail.

One person or several people have access to mailboxes, which contain confidential documents like credit cards, checks and personal information. To safeguard your information, handle bills and other finance-related tasks online.

### 2. Use a U.S. Postal mailbox for outgoing mail.

If you're sending bills or other items containing personal information via snail mail, find a sealed U.S. mailbox. Outgoing mail is great target for thieves. Someone can walk in and grab it, and they have a lot of information.

### 3. Opt out of preapproved credit card offers.

ID thieves love these offers. Since you're not getting the bills, you won't know about it until you're denied credit later. Visit [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com) or call (888) 5-OPT-OUT to get your name taken off the list for those pre-approved credit cards offers.

### 4. Less junk mail.

Yes, there really is a do-not-send list for junk mail. The Direct Marketing Association, the trade group for marketers who use marketing by mail, requires its members to stop sending mail to anyone on the list. While it won't stop all unsolicited mail, you should see a significant decrease within about three months. The downside: While applying by mail is free, applying online costs \$5. Send a short note to: Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 643, Carmel, NY, 10512.

### 5. Limit the number of credit or debit cards you take to campus.

Keep it to one or two. Pay attention to fine print and teaser rates. The Caltech Employees Federal Credit Union, located on Campus is a great place to start. With no annual fees and no gimmicks, it's a great card to carry with a low

interest rate. Visit them online at [www.cefcu.org](http://www.cefcu.org).

### 6. Find a safe place for valuables like Social Security or credit cards

A person who makes off with your Social Security card, credit card or debit card has the keys to your personal identity, not to mention your cash. Since you can't keep them with you at all times, find a safe place to keep them, whether it's a locked drawer in the room or just between the pages of a book.

### 7. Keep financial papers private.

If you have bank statements, credit card bills and student loan documents in your room, keep them out of reach and sight of others. That goes double for medical records that tend to have a lot of personal info and your Social Security number. If you don't need the records, destroy them.

### 8. Act quickly.

When your financial statements come in, scan them for any discrepancies. If you find anything, call the bank or card company immediately. Not only do you preserve more of your protection rights, you put a quicker end to a scamster's spending spree.

### 9. Get your credit report regularly.

If anyone has gotten credit in your name, it will likely show up on one of your three credit reports. Federal law gives you access to at least one copy of each of the three every year. If you

stagger the reports (get one every four months), that's a good way to check it regularly for no cost.

### 10. When you're out, keep your purse or wallet with you.

Whether it's the library or a house party, just a minute is all thieves need if your personal belongings are left in sight.

### 11. Safeguard your computer.

If you have your own computer, use password protection for your files and e-mail. That way if you share, or if the machine gets stolen, you'll have some protection. Select a password that's not obvious. What you don't want to use: your name, birthday, etc. Instead, try a combination of letters and numbers like the first initials of a favorite movie or book with a couple of numbers included; that way, you'll remember it, but no one else will be able to guess.

### 12. Be cautious with public computers.

If you're using a public computer, such as one in a lab or dorm common, clear the history and the cookies when you're done. If you use Internet Explorer, you can do this by going to "tools" and then "Internet options" in your browser's menu bar and selecting "delete cookies."

### 13. Beware of phishing scams.

Phishing, where crooks lure consumers to look-alike sites to glean personal financial data, is on the rise. Don't click on links that come to you in e-mail. Instead, go to the site yourself through

your favorites or find it through a search engine.

### 14. Protect your PIN.

When you use a debit card in a store or at an ATM, use your hand to shield your personal identification number from prying eyes. Also, do not write your PIN number anywhere, even if you think no one is looking.

### 15. Join the exclusive Credit Union which serves Caltech.

The Caltech Employees Federal Credit Union (CEFCU) exclusively serves the extended Caltech community. It has geared its products and services to serve the elite Caltech family, which includes the student population. Services students can take advantage of are:

- Exceptional rates on Share accounts
- Low-cost financing for credit cards, auto loans and other borrowing needs
- 24-hour-a-day ATM Share access located on Campus (Winnett Center and Keith Spalding Bldg.)
- VISA card with increased student limits (No Annual Fee, low rate)
- CEFCU@HOME (PC access) featuring e-Statements and e-Move
- Free incoming wires to your account from anywhere in the nation
- Cashier's checks, American Express Gift Cheques and VISA Gift Cards
- Direct Deposit of recurring payments and Payroll Deduction

Readers seeking may information may visit 515 S. Wilson Ave on Campus, call (626) 395-6300 or log on to [www.cefcu.org](http://www.cefcu.org).

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# Dr. Quark Answers

## Helping you with the power of Science!

Dear Dr. Quark,

I've noticed that to two decimal places, the frosh class ratio is the natural number. Am I a bad math major for wishing for more girls even though it would disrupt the natural beauty of the ratio?

Sincerely,  
Lonely frosh

Lonely frosh, do not despair! There's nothing wrong with wishing for more girls at Tech. As for the natural beauty of the ratio, just be glad it's not  $\pi:1$ . Scientifically speaking, what you're really wishing for is just a ratio that is closer to the golden ratio, which we all know is much more ideal. Now, I don't know about you, but when I found out that the frosh class ratio was the natural number I wondered about the underlying system dynamic that could have brought forth such a result. We all

know that the natural constant is used in modeling populations, so perhaps this year's ratio would be an good test base for a mathematical model? We could model the rate that female applicants matriculate to Caltech as a constant  $k$  that represents the number of high school females in the United States interested in science and subtract another constant  $g$  to represent the percentage of female applicants glommed pre-frosh weekend. We end up with the differential equation  $\frac{dw}{dt} = kw - gw^2 + E$  (error term). Solving this simple model for  $w(t)$  as a function of time should yield exponential decay. Now the ball is in your court young frosh! I expect nothing less than a summer research project terminating in a seminal paper on how admissions can convince more female high school seniors to come to Caltech. Admissions will of course read your paper, chuckle, and throw it in the trash.

## Ask-a-Prof

### Prof. John Preskill:

#### Who will win the World Series this year?

[Editor's note: Professor Preskill provided the following answer on August 3rd, well before the play-off race approached its close.]

Since I'm a sucker for Cinderella stories, I'll pick the Detroit Tigers. This year's Tigers remind me of last year's White Sox: no big stars, but they have gotten where they are (the best record in baseball) with excellent pitching depth. If that holds, they should do well in the postseason. I was a skeptic about the Tigers for the

first few months of the season, and I still don't believe they are as good as their record. But they just keep winning. Maybe they'll be like the 1984 Tigers, who won all year and went right on winning in the fall. Well, deep down maybe I can't quite believe the Tigers will win it all this year, but it would be crass to pick the Yankees, wouldn't it?

#### What is your favorite book?

That's easy: My favorite book is *The Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract*. It's the best book by baseball's best writer and analyst, chock full of insights and stories you won't find elsewhere. The only hard part is choosing between the first and second editions. I prefer the first edition in

Dear Dr. Quark,

I'm an average teacher but I have a problem. You see, I did fine on pass fail, but once grades started, my lack of effort and inability to see color has really held me back, and my GPA is on the edge of getting me kicked out of school. I tried getting help from tutors, TAs and even talked to my professors, and that seemed to help. The problem is, I think I hit a homeless person with my car, but then I got scared and drove away and I don't want to go to prison.

#### -Names are not important

The first thing you should do is inspect the front end of your car for pieces of homeless person. If you find anything conclusive, like an arm or torso sticking out of your front grill, you should probably consider going into hiding in the sub-basement of Moore. It is a little known fact that Moore was part of the underground railroad during the Civil War. I also recommend that you

have your vision checked. Being color blind can be difficult when your Bi1 midterm requires color printouts to answer specific questions (for all you winners keeping track, that's question 1) or when you're driving down the street at night and a homeless person wanders into the middle of the road. As any normal color seeing person knows, homeless people are bright red, at least after you hit them. There is always the chance that you didn't hit it. There is a finite chance that your car and its contents quantum tunneled through the homeless person, who was then left quite bewildered on the road. Such an event typically requires many repeated collisions before a successful tunneling. With poor vision and reckless habits, who knows, you could be hitting homeless people all the time, but I think this would be a larger problem. Also note that classical tunneling has such a low probability of occurring that you'd have better luck with finding a girlfriend and graduating. On the upshot, prison isn't necessarily a bad thing. There's better

food and you probably won't find anything there as thick as a traffic cone.

Dear Dr. Quark,

I'm a guy at tech who writes a witty and insightful, not to mention wildly popular column that usually appears on the back page so as to be more accessible to left handed people who are known to appreciate subtle comedy and also tend to pick up newspapers backwards. My problem is that I'm also extremely, violently jealous and recently another feature has appeared along with mine on the back page. I could control my insane rage when the only material found with mine was a blank space for mailing labels and the slightly less funny comic section, but now I fear the other writer may be in physical danger? Do you have any advice, or information on where to find you on weeknights after 2 am? I'd be really happy if you could help me.

-HamiTony

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

asked if I would "allow" them to throw me in a pond, I believe they called it "ponding the President." I responded that it was best for me to allow it, since they would probably do it anyway, and that I hoped they would make it easier on me because of my willingness to participate! Since then, I am compelled to add a request from my wife: that you don't do it when I'm wearing my "school clothes."

Nevertheless, it seems to me that Caltech students should not waste their amazing creativity on pranks on their president, especially one with an accent, but should focus their prankering talents instead on a higher goal—MIT and its students!

Email more questions to [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu).

## Field of Dreams in a League of its Own

BY: HARRISON STEIN

With the depressing dearth of watchable movies in theaters coupled with the excitement of the Major League Baseball pennant races, it seems appropriate to reflect on one of the great movies of the 80s.

Although baseball has been maligned for every reason from the slow pace of its games to the cruel length of its seasons, even the most outspoken critics of the sport can agree that baseball is the "thinking man's game." Every pitch is a test of wills, a mind game between two game competitors who want nothing more than to outmaneuver the opposition.

In the same respect, Phil Alden Robinson's 1989 drama Field of Dreams is a thinking man's movie, a film that makes you test your faith, confront your mortality, and perhaps even shed a tear all at once. Field of Dreams is the quintessential baseball movie, an impeccable tribute to America's pastime.

Yet, in a sense, Field of Dreams is about far more than baseball, offering more life lessons than Chicken Soup for the Soul. Perhaps my most favorite lesson is that you should always follow your dreams because some day you will be rewarded, in ways

you never could have imagined. However, there are many more doctrines littered throughout the highly philosophical script and every viewer will probably have a different take. The film rarely takes sides on any issues and purposefully leaves the ending open to invoke vivid conversations amongst the audience.

Before the days of Waterworld, The Postman and the British mas-sage sex scandal Kevin Costner was one of Hollywood's brightest stars. He demonstrated his directorial talents in the Oscar winning Dances With Wolves and was in the limelight due to his roles in compelling movies such as The Untouchables and JFK. His passion projects, however, have always seemed to involve baseball, as he has starred in four films where his character had some sort of connection to the game, none more affecting than Field of Dreams.

The story begins in Iowa, of all places, where farmer Ray Kinsella lives a peaceful existence with wife Annie (cheerful redhead Amy Madigan) and daughter Karen. One day, while walking amidst the fields Ray hears a booming voice recite the famous line, "If you build it, he will come."

The prophetic voice from the heavens is rather unclear in its instructions, yet Ray suddenly has

an epiphany. Fearful that he is turning into his father, a man who never did a spontaneous thing in his life, Ray acts on a whim and decides to build a baseball field. He determines that "he" is Shoeless Joe Jackson, a former Chicago White Sox superstar who was banned from baseball after the catastrophic 1919 Black Sox gambling scandal.

Shockingly, the ghosts of Shoeless Joe (Ray Liotta) and his White Sox teammates appear out of nowhere to play in the field. Ray feels as if his life is finally turning around when he gets a jolt of reality and a jolt of fantasy.

Because the field monopolizes all of the space in Ray's farm, business is declining and Ray encounters serious money troubles. His problems are exacerbated when the voice returns, sending him on a wild cross-country trek from Iowa to Boston to Minnesota.

Along the way, he meets Terrence Mann (James Earl Jones), a belligerent, reclusive writer with an unexpected soft side for baseball in the same vein as JD Salinger. To reveal anything more about Ray's voyage, including a picture perfect twist at the end would be a crime, as this is a film to be cherished upon its first viewing.

Even though Costner is clearly the hero of the film, the charac-



Photo courtesy of <http://www.sun-jet.org/~mlbd/>

ters blend together so well that, at first, no single actor is above the movie.

In fact, it can be argued that for the first half of the movie, Iowa is the picture's true star. Field of Dreams was filmed on location, and this summer the cast is actually returning to the site to screen the movie on a giant screen near the farm. The scenery is absolutely picturesque and the beauty of the setting makes you forget that, yes the film does take place in Iowa.

However, midway through the movie, James Earl Jones enters stage right and flat out steals the movie. While Jones is perhaps best known for his memorable voice work in both Star Wars and The Lion King, Terrance Mann is who Jones was meant to play.

His transformation from a caustic old cynic to a wide-eyed romanticist is simply visceral and his minute-long monologue ex-

plains the movie's title. Nonetheless, this movie could have starred Pauly Shore, Paris Hilton and 50 Cent and I still probably would have loved it. There are a few unfortunate flaws riddled in the script.

An unnecessary subplot involving Ray's ambitious banker brother-in-law grows tired and clichéd, and at some times the movie is too corny for its own good. That being said, if you can suspend your disbelief before you press play, you will be justly rewarded, as the film truly goes the distance.

Much has been made about the impact Field of Dreams has had on members of the male sex. The final scene is so emotional that many men (myself included) admit that this is the one time they have cried during a movie. In A League of Their Own, Tom Hanks famously said, "There's no crying in baseball." He obviously never watched Field of Dreams.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

## Dr. Quark Helps Tony

As soon as I read your name I knew exactly who you were<sup>1</sup>. May I compliment you on your refreshing and unique sense of humor<sup>2</sup>. You make a good point, however, and I am also quite worried about the other writer's health. I hope that nothing happens to him<sup>3</sup>. As to where I am to be found on weeknights, if you want to come talk to me I'll be where I usually am<sup>4</sup>. I wish the best of luck to you<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>. Actually I had to pull out last week's edition of the tech and search through it looking for your wildly popular column.

<sup>2</sup>. And by "refreshing and unique" I really mean "Dave Barry wanna-be"<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>3</sup>. And if something does, the FBI

might be interested as I forwarded along to them your concerned email.

<sup>4</sup>. On top of your girlfriend.

<sup>5</sup>. Not really. Just kidding. I do wish you the best of luck, especially as I feel your column doesn't really conflict with mine. Mine is a humor column, and yours technically isn't funny.

<sup>6</sup>. I hate annoying footnotes.

Ask Dr. Quark your own questions by emailing them to [drquark@gmail.com](mailto:drquark@gmail.com). Dr. Quark may or may not be a real person.

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# Sports at Tech. Yes, They Exist.

BY: MARK EICHENLAUB

Occasionally Techers take a break from the pursuit of higher academics to participate in the physical enterprises. Here's a round-up of Tech's teams for the upcoming year.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Team Size: 11 men, 5 women

Coach: Scott "Cross Country Czar" Jung, Susan "Not-Gilbaugh" Reese (or Riese, or something that starts with an "R", I think), Ian "Ian" Shapiro

Team Captains: Mark Eichenlaub (Men), Katherine Breeden (other)

Last Year: men 7th, women 7th

Key Runners: Matt Kiesz, David Rosen, Ben Flora (men), Diana Lin, Sarah Stokes (other)

The cross country program

is separated into two different team, men and other, the latter consisting of those individuals who simply can't keep up. Let's face it: girls are slow and I can beat them. With a hammer. Oh boy that one definitely shouldn't go in print.

We've (and by "we" I mean "the other members of the team") ran two races so far this year – at Irvine and again at Westmont. Our men's team has maintained a perfect last-place record in each, being led each time by junior Matt Kiesz. The others, their efforts headed by junior team captain Katherine Breeden, finally fielded a bare-minimum five-runner squad at Westmont, and actually managed to defeat Cal State Monterey Bay. I didn't even know that school existed, but we beat them good.

Coach Jung says this year could turn out better than last for both men and others. The men's team loses only one runner from last year's squad, and

adds freshmen Kangway Chuang and Ben Flora to its top runners. The women's team has lost its top runner from last year, Ekua Anane-Fenin, to graduation, and will also suffer from the loss of Gina Gage to public drunkenness (by which I mean the exchange program).

When asked why he chooses to coach cross country, Jung makes a brief attempt at thought, then declares, "That's a good question." Later, he tried to make something up about how he enjoys getting to meet Caltech stu-



Nathan Lau joined cross country because he likes pain.

dents. That's believable, Scott. Really. But what is cross country, at its deepest level? "It's all the same, if you think about it," philosophizes Billy Zdon. "It's basically just a bunch of vectors and matrices and things like that. Running releases energy to let me study

quantum mechanics."

Assistant coach Ian "Ian" Shapiro has a unique view on the cross country program, having also been a competitor on the team as an undergraduate. Ian says his experience on the team gives him a good idea of the difficulties athletes face trying to balance athletics with the demands of academics and other obligations. "I wouldn't be the person I am today if I hadn't compete on the Caltech teams. I want to bring that to others," he asserts.

Now that that's been cleared up – a pathetic cry for help. The others team especially needs pretty much anybody capable of finishing the 6000m race distance to come run for the severely-underwomaned squad. "We're actively recruiting off the treadmill," claims Susan, the others' coach, in a bald-faced lie.

## VOLLEYBALL

Team Size: XXL (11 players)

Coach: Maureen Burl

Team Captains: nebulous

Last Year: 7-19, 0-14 conference

Key players: Sarah Stidham, Rene Davis, Lisa Streit, Marie Giron

In case you have forgotten, I'll remind you that volleyball began in 1895 when YMCA guy William Morgan threw basketball, baseball, tennis, and handball in a blender. Then, after it stopped smoking, he cleaned up this infernal mess and decided to invent volleyball. In 1916, the game underwent a revolution when the Philippines invented the spike. The fact that it took 21 years to figure out it's probably helpful to spike the ball during this game gives you an idea of the innate stupidity of volleyball players, a general rule which certainly does not carry over to the Lady Beavers. (I said not. See? Please don't



Go go, Team Volleyball!

kill me.)

The team lost nineteen matches last year. This year they are off to a rocky start, having lost only four matches so far. Loss of Colleen Moody to graduation and Becky Streit to foreign lands seem to be contributing factors in the slow start.

Coach Burl is returning to Caltech this year after having coached here in the mid-nineties. This is generally accepted to be a good thing. I'll be honest – I don't know a whole lot about volleyball. It involves serving, digging, and killing – three of my favorite occupations, but beyond that I'm pretty clueless. However, by reading the USA Volleyball's "A Guide to Volleyball Basics", I've been reminded of some of the key facts I already knew, such as "Spandex has been popular among women players for years." Also, I've learned new and interesting tidbits like, "Socks help to absorb perspiration which cuts down on blisters. Top of socks

are often the driest area on a player and serve as makeshift hand towels in a pinch." This information has increased my appreciation of the game immensely. I now seek to cut down on my blisters using the power of perspiration and to pinch my dries hand towel socks as frequently as possible.

As far as an outlook for this year, who knows? "I'm pretty excited about the team this year," babbles Lisa Streit, a senior who tends to lead the team in certain categories such as statistics. "We have a little team tradition of making birthday cakes decorated to look like volleyballs when we have a birthday on the team." Well Lisa, that would be the best time to do it. Any parting words, Ms. Streit? "The volleyball team has never had a conference win in the history of the program, but this may be our year to 'snatch it up.'"

## WATER POLO

Team Size: Unknown

Coach: Unknown

Team Captains:

Unknown

Last Year: Unknown

Key Players: Unknown

Not much is known about the rare and elusive beast that is the men's water polo team. Their coach declined an interview, and therefore I have little to say. The team doesn't play until the alumni game this Saturday. Last year, I was impressed to learn the Aquabeavers had won a game, and more impressed to learn they were ranked in the top ten nationally, tied for tenth place. Then I learned there are only sixteen team to begin with, and also they quickly lost their top ten ranking. Some of these guys are probably really good and whatnot, but I don't know who. The end.

## SOCER

Team Size: 18

Coach: Rolando "Rolo" Uribe

Team Captains: Brandt Belson, Yuki Kimura

Last Year: don't remind us

Key Players: Elliot Peterson, Nicholas Galitzki, Yezdan Badrakhan, Darrell Coleman

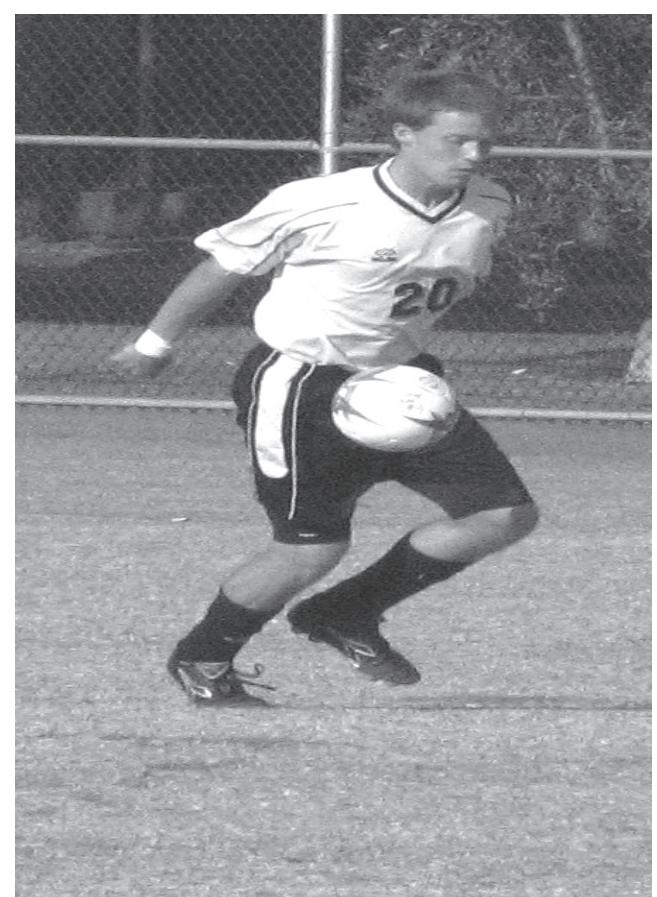
Coach Uribe has his work cut out for him this year. Rolo, a former All-American who was drafted to play professionally, loses nine of his eleven starters from last year's winless team. Still, Rolo has his sights set on a successful season with three wins, and a seventh-place finish in the conference.

So far this year, things have not looked up for the team. Hopes were high for the game against La Sierra, which the

Beavers ceded, 1-5. The team is 0-4, with losses to Cal State San Marcos (1-6), UC Santa Cruz (0-7) and Occidental (1-6).

Why the lopsidedness of these scores? The biggest key, says Rolo, is simply bringing in players with good club experience. Many of Caltech's players came to the team with little or no experience, while their opponents, such as nationally 11th-ranked Redlands, have players who have been playing soccer since half way through their gestation period.

The incoming freshman class looks strong, though. Additionally, the Beavers now have a nice field to play on. The next home game is Saturday the 23rd against La Verne at 11am, so come give the guys some support. They could use it.



One ball or three?

$$\begin{aligned} J &= \int_s^{s_e} \{Q^{(0)}(s, x; s') + \varepsilon^2 Q^{(2s)}(s, x; s') \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 \bar{\kappa} (s_e - s)^2 Q^{(0)}(s, x; s_e) + \dots\} ds' + \\ &= \int_s^{s_e} \{Q^{(0)}(s, x; s') + \varepsilon^2 Q^{(2s)}(s, x; s')\} ds' + \end{aligned}$$

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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

The article Sarah Payne wrote for the September 22 edition of the California Tech entitled "Tim Chang Must Go" leaves out many relevant details regarding the circumstances involved in her departure from her RA position. Of course, personnel matters are private so we are not able to discuss them, but it is regrettable that the piece was written as a personal attack on our colleague Tim Chang. We believe Tim handled this matter in a thoughtful, professional manner.

We hope all students, especially the freshmen, will not let Sarah's commentary bias their views of their RA's or of the Housing Office.

Sincerely,

John Hall, Dean of Students and Professor of Civil Engineering

Tom Mannion, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Campus Life

Barbara Green, Associate Dean of Students

*Editor's note: The Tech is doing further reporting concerning several former Caltech RAs. We hope to present more complete information in a forthcoming issue.*

Dear Editors,

With claims ranging from irresponsible (...the case against Page was a mockery of the CRC, the Honor Code, and any reasonable sense of justice and due process.) to just plain wrong (Sanctions were imposed by the routing committee...), last week's California Tech commentary article "Deans Violate the Honor Code" deserves a response.

At the beginning of summer, I imposed a sanction on Page House that prohibited consumption of alcohol by students of any age in the common areas of the House. As explained in another article in the same issue of the Tech, I acted after a rapid sequence of alcohol-related incidents made clear that safety was being compromised. The Dean has the right to respond unilaterally to stabilize such a situation and, in fact, has a responsibility to do so.

As also mentioned in last week's accompanying article, there is a longer history of alcohol-related problems involving Page House. Past incidents have been dealt with by various mechanisms, including the Conduct Review Committee, and last February a talk on the alcohol policy was presented to the House membership. However, the recent incidents convinced me that a more comprehensive approach was needed, so I referred the matter to the Routing Committee for consideration. The Routing Committee unanimously agreed to involve the CRC, which has the authority to deal with situations involving large groups, including Houses. Following standard procedure, the CRC began with a preliminary investigation conducted by the CRC co-chairs. This investigation included collecting details of all alcohol-related incidents associated with Page going back four quarters. Often, interviews would also be held with the people involved to help decide if a case should go forward, but in the present instance, the history itself was sufficient to convince the co-chairs that involvement of a full CRC committee was warranted to deal with the continuing violations of the alcohol policy. Page House leadership was then notified of this decision.

Over the summer, discussions were held between Page House and the CRC committee about how to gain better adherence to the alcohol policy and achieve more responsible drinking behavior. A proposal was prepared by Page and, after several exchanges with the committee, was accepted. According to Page Vice President Mason Smith, as quoted in last week's accompanying article, "The main purpose of the proposal is to encourage personal and communal responsibility in the House." Part of the agreement was a recommendation to the Dean that the sanction be lifted, and I have obliged. (Of course, the alcohol policy is still in effect, including the prohibition of underage drinking.) The proposal also provides for regular meetings between Page House leadership and the Deans to consult on details and monitor progress.

Contrary to the views expressed in "Deans Violate the Honor Code", the procedures followed in dealing with this matter have been appropriate.

Sincerely,

John Hall, Dean of Students and Professor of Civil Engineering

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XKCD Comics, courtesy Randall Munroe ([www.xkcd.com](http://www.xkcd.com))

# Cross Country in the Crystal Ball

BY: MARK EICHENLAUB

As the California Tech's ace sports reporter, I constantly seek exciting, post-modern methods of covering sporting events. So this morning, I am bringing you



a world first – news so latebreaking, it is still unbroken. As three runners and I drive to Redlands at 5:57AM on Saturday 23, I decide to write a report on the cross country race we're attending before the race even occurs. Neglecting the fact that the next edition of the Tech will not be published for nine days, this could quite possibly be the most up-to-date (or ahead-of-date) sports reporting in history, but probably not.

The contestants will be under-

graduate Katherine "No Nickname" Breedon, grad student Ian "Ian" Shapiro, and alumnus Megumi "Gooey" Abe. When the car rolls into the parking lot at 7am, the runners will maintain a calm, confident composure, with

vative starts on the 5K course. Coming through the first mile in 6:05, Abe will then suffer a minor explosion of her head due to elevated pressure levels far exceeding known tolerances. Abe's body will do far better without her head, and continue to run the next two miles at breakneck speed to finish the race in first place in 16:53. Breedon, not wanting to burn herself out early, will come through a conservative first mile in twenty six minutes, whereupon the race director, in attempting to remove her from the course, will be instantly reduced to a whimpering heap of tears by Katherine's icy stare. After finishing, she will reprogram the Redlands "computer" to read a first place finish of negative three seconds.

Ian "Ian" Shapiro will run with the leaders in the men's race for two and half miles before being distracted by passing peloton of bicyclists, which he will pursue on foot until his Achilles tendon rips off the back of his leg to leave him lying face-down in the sewers with the rest of his kind. Feroce will cover the 5-mile course in a world-record 19:13, but get last place due to his seventy-two stops to urinate on every tree, bush, fence, and bystander along the course.

## 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 in the Chandler conference room.

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

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## Caltech Beats Whittier

The Caltech Men's Soccer team traveled to Whittier College and came away with a 2-1 road victory over the Whittier Poets (2-5) on Saturday. Both Beaver goals were scored by Daniel Belykin a freshman from

Boulder, CO with assists by Daryl Coleman a freshman from Aiken, SC and Yezdan Badrakhan a sophomore from Los Angeles, respectively. This is the first SCIAC victory of the season for Tech.



Caltech scores a victory against Whitter. Pictured: Jonathan Gardner

## Athletic Events

TUESDAY, 10/3

7:30PM - WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL VS. CLAREMONT-MUDD-SCRIPPS

WEDNESDAY, 10/4V

4:00PM - MEN'S SOCCER VS. CLAREMONT-MUDD-SCRIPPS

FRIDAY, 10/6

7:30PM - WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL VS. CAL LUTHERAN UNIV.

SATURDAY, 10/7

11:00AM - MEN'S SOCCER VS. UNIV. OF REDLANDS

Tuesday, October 10th

7:30PM - Women's Volleyball @ Univ. of Redlands

Wednesday, October 11th

4:00PM - Mens' Soccer @ Occidental College

6:00PM - Men's Water Polo vs. Chapman Univ.

Friday, October 13th

5:00PM - Women's Volleyball vs. West Coast Baptist College

7:30PM - Women's Volleyball vs. Univ. of Dallas

Saturday, October 14th

9:00AM - M/W Cross Country @ SCIAC Multi-Duals - La Mirada

11:00AM - Men's Soccer vs. Pomona-Pitzer Colleges

11:00AM - Men's Water Polo vs. Univ. of La Verne

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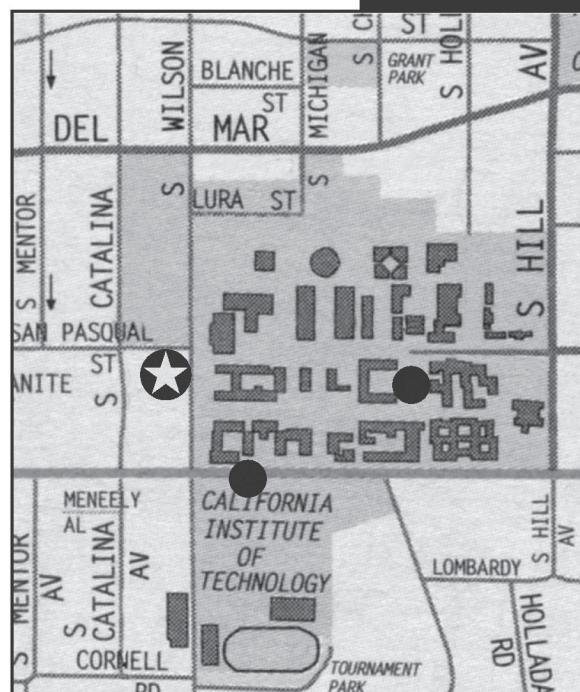
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# Pluto Officially No Longer a Dog

BY: MARK EICHENLAUB

Despite having been considered one of America's favorite dogs for more than 75 years, Pluto will no longer bear that moniker, according to a new definition of the term "dog" announced by the world's leading veterinarians last Wednesday, September 27. Pluto leaves the ranks of its former fellows, Max, Vroom Vroom, Elmo, Milo, Junior, Spot, Ugly-Bugly, and Nickles. The official classification of Pluto is now "animated dog".

Pluto was originally created by American icon Walt Disney in 1930. Since that time, children have learned from a young age that Pluto is the pet dog of cartoon character Mickey Mouse. The new classification will require alterations to thousands of children's books and videos.

"Who are you? How did you get in here?" commented Walt Disney Company CEO Robert Iger when interviewed in his office. "This is a private office. Where the hell is security?" he concluded.

Controversy surrounding Pluto's classification began in 2000, when PBS created "Clifford the Big Red Dog". In August of 2006, new measurements using the Panasonic High-Definition View Screen revealed that contrary to original beliefs, Clifford is slightly larger than Pluto, although he appears dimmer due to coloration effects and zoomed-out perspectives.

The classification of Clifford as a dog posed scientific problems to cartoon veterinarians, because if Clifford were counted as a dog, an entire host of other two-dimen-

sional nonreal objects (TNOs) would also have to be classified as such. The "dog", unlike the "cock" or "span-yule" had never before had a universally-accepted definition.

Under the new definitions, Clifford will be that largest known animated dog, with Pluto taking second place. There are already more than forty catalogued animated dogs, and that figure is expected to increase significantly as researchers conduct more complete surveys of low-quality Japanese animation in the vast region of peripheral territory known as the "Kyoto Belt".

"We realized there was a need for a firm, scientific definition of the term 'dog,'" stated Dr. Kay Nein, head of the Association of Fake United States Species (AFUSS), as I caught him just closing his labrador and locking up for the night. "We're not trying to create a fuss here," he explained. "Several years of careful scientific consideration have gone into this decision." Dr. Nein elaborated that it should have been clear from the start that Pluto was not a dog because, "he is clearly far too flexible. A real dog will keep its mass stiff."

According to the new definition, a dog is any mammal which repeatedly circles a sunny spot before lying down in it, and is massive enough to create a spherical shell of water when shaking dry under its own power. A further requirement is that the dog must dominate its neighborhood by barking at all hours of the night, thus eliminating small mammals such as squirrels from the vicinity.

Dr. Jack Russell of Dover, Delaware, creator of Clifford,

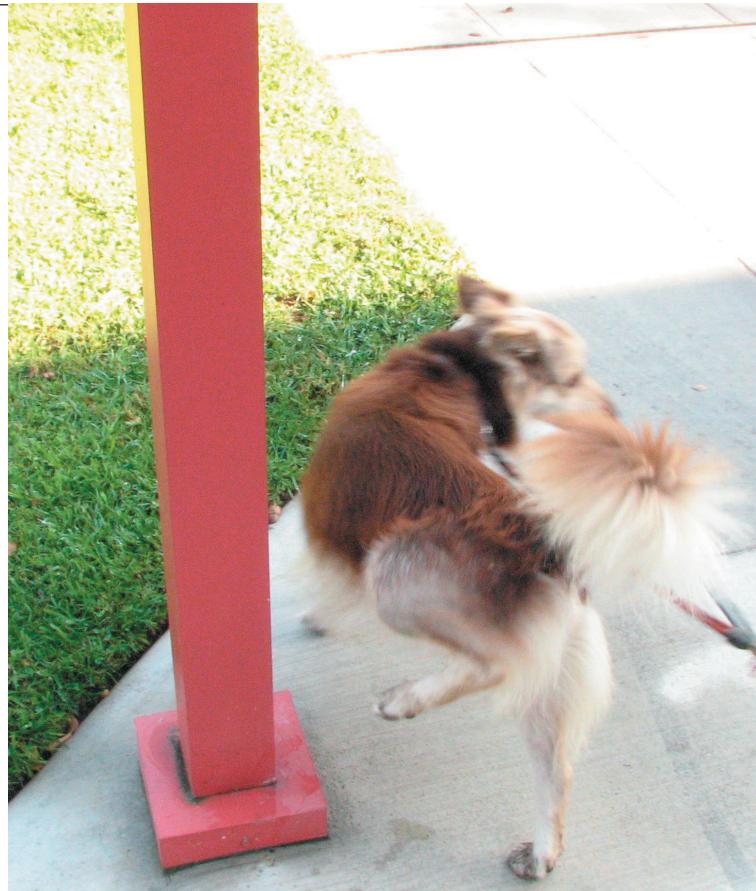
has expressed his approval of the new classification. After Dr. Russell, nicknamed the "Dover Man-pincher" after his affinity for squeezing fellow animators' earlobes, announced the creation of Clifford, he immediately knew the new graphical phenomenon should not be classified as a dog. "When the reporters started to call the next day, I said, 'Yeah, yeah, but let me tell you why it's not dog'" said Dr. Russell in a recent public conference where he described the experience of being hounded by the press. He stated that the new classification is, "the only definition that is a good scientific definition and has historical integrity behind it, even though I'm significantly less famous than I would have been [if Clifford were a dog]."

Despite having the backing of the majority of the scientific community, the public at large appears to think the new definition is terrible. "You can call him what you want, but Pluto will always be a dog to me," said area resident Bea Gill.

Hugh Skee, President of the Pasadena canis Lupus Ubiquity Thanksgiving Organization (PLUTO) expressed his main concern as, "It isn't that Pluto isn't real. He's just corporeally challenged, and I don't think the scientists are recognizing that."

"Next thing you know they'll be saying ketchup isn't a vegetable. The kids'll all have to eat border cauliflower," said former US President Ronald Reagan in a posthumous comment. "I'm itchy. Wa-Wa is great," he added, simply for the purpose of getting in one more dog pun.

Although physically very



Real dogs can do this.

similar to other objects, such as Snoopy and McGruff, never known as true dogs, Pluto has long been popularly-accorded special dog status due to tradition, and to its unforgettably-adorable and mildly-anthropomorphic facial expressions.

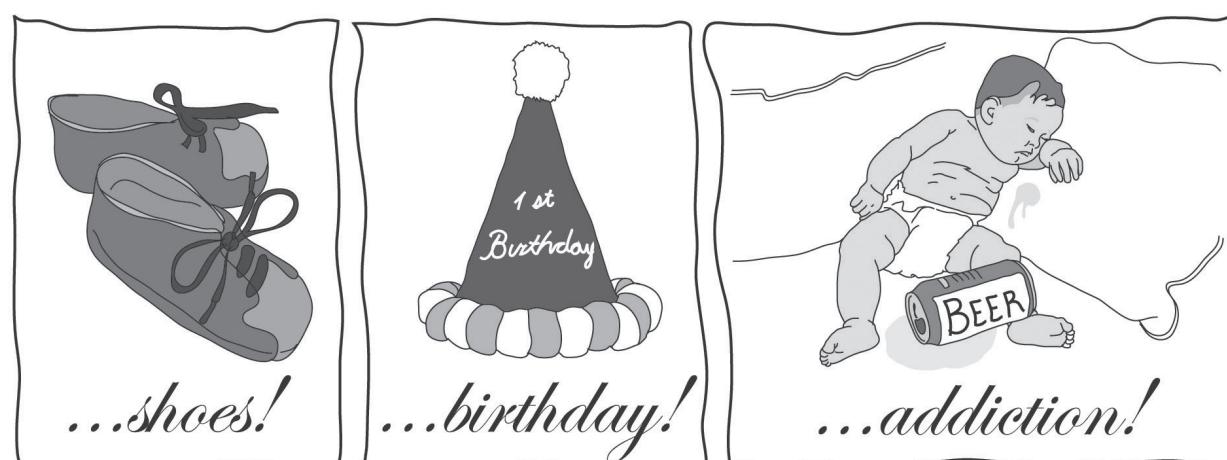
One week ago, the Domestic-animal Official Group (DOG) proposed a far more relaxed definition of a dog, which would have allowed Pluto to remain a dog. However, the definition would have expanded the number of known dogs fivefold or more, including such objects as Cerberus, which has three heads, and Goofy,

which runs circles around Pluto. Although most scientists are now united behind the new, stricter definition, it remains to be seen how much time must pass before America adapts to the idea of losing one of its long-beloved dogs. A few may be doing so already. "Dogs should poo, dull as it may seem," claimed self-proclaimed dog-purist Dot Sund. Ms. Sund let her prize tomato rot while her attention was distracted for the interview.

In the end, the decision was a victory. A tough problem came along, but the scientific community has banded together to whip it.

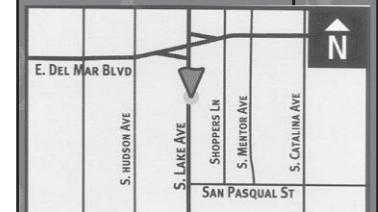
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