

# THE CALIFORNIA TECH



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## Health insurance now optional

Changes will save money for institute and undergrads, but some worried it will inflate premiums

By Sarah Marzen

STAFF WRITER

Next year, doubly insured Caltech students will be able to opt-out of Caltech's previously mandatory health insurance plan, which costs about \$2,000.

Administrators changed the health insurance policy primarily to give doubly-insured students the option of saving around \$2,000, but also to avoid government scrutiny over Caltech's rising tuition and fees, according to Health Committee Chair Philip Hoffman.

"We've had really positive responses from parents already," said Vice President for Student Affairs Anneila Sargent. Every year, ten to fifteen parents call to ask if they can waive health insurance, according to Benefits Technical Lead Angelica Santana-Najera.

Director of Institute Budgeting and Planning Judith Stanton doesn't see that moving to an opt-out insurance plan would increase Caltech's profit, since Caltech neither makes nor loses money from supplying undergraduate health insurance. However, she estimates that the same plan will save roughly \$450,000 on the Institute's financial aid expenses, leaving that money to help cover other undergraduate aid expenses. Financial aid is primarily supported by endowment earnings and donations, both of which will be hit by the national economic downturn.

However, administrators deny that Institute-wide financial considerations motivated their decision. "The decision had nothing to do with the financial crisis," said Dean Currie. "The discussion started over the summer [before the national economic crisis]."

### What will happen to health insurance quality?

Dean John Hall and some students worry that the opt-out health insurance plan will eventually result in a lower coverage health insurance plan or higher premiums. As more students opt-out, the number of students using Caltech's health insurance will decrease, causing insurance companies to view Caltech's insured students as less healthy and Caltech's pool as riskier, according to Dean Hall. This will cause insurance companies to raise premiums—giving Caltech a choice between increasing health insurance fees or cutting health insurance benefits.

"Ten to fifteen years from now, our [Caltech's] health insurance will probably be complete garbage," said undergraduate John Hasier, who believes that the Institute will choose to cut benefits rather than raise premiums, at some point. "We're going to risk turning health care into junk for small gain."

A rise in premiums or reduction of benefits would hit graduate students the hardest, since

most graduate students are not doubly insured and would have to remain on the Caltech health insurance plan. Evans Boney, Graduate Student Council Chair and Health Committee member, is against the opt-out insurance policy unless premiums don't increase more than they would have without the policy change. "We won't shoulder the burden so that a few undergrads pay less, nor will we accept significantly reduced benefits so parents can save a little money," wrote Boney in an email.

Santana-Najera and Hoffman, among others, believe that Caltech can avoid a more expensive or less comprehensive plan by placing minimum-coverage requirements on the health insurance plans of students that want to opt-out. Suggested requirements include reasonable access to covered services within 10 miles of Caltech campus, and office visits that are covered at a minimum of 80% or a maximum of \$40 copay. But Dean Hall worries that it will be hard to verify that students that opt-out actually have insurance plans that meet these requirements.

"I'm in favor of keeping the current system," said Hall. "I expressed my opinions and they [Provost Ed Stolper, Currie, and Sargent] decided to go the other way... I can't complain my point of view wasn't considered."

Jason Cerundolo, an under-

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## Women secure a second place win at Ultimate Frisbee tournament



Photo by Jessica Levine

Caltech graduate student Moira Gresham winds up for a throw under the arms of her defender at the UC Santa Barbara qualifying tournament on Saturday and Sunday. The Caltech women placed second in the tournament. The Caltech men won a game.

## How to improve student life

### New report has a few suggestions from across campus

By Marissa Cevallos

STAFF WRITER

Problem sets should be less tedious but maintain their rigor, says a report that compiled the gripes of students, faculty, and administration at April's Student Experience Conference (SEC). Feedback mechanisms like TQFR and ombuds meetings could also use an overhaul, according to the report.

The impact of the report may be felt as soon as February as the Council on Undergraduate Education (CUE) is working on a mechanism for midterm feedback, according to the Academics and Research Committee (ARC) Chair Will Tsay.

Though the report was full of conflicting opinions to improve the quality of undergraduate life, a few ideas had widespread back-

ing: lectures need to be improved, problem sets need to be meaningful, students and professors have to work together to make office hours effective, and students need more one-to-one time with advisors.

"Advising, for example, is sometimes hit or miss," said Ricketts ARC representative Andrej Poletayev, who compiled a version of the report. "I think the freshmen will need it the most."

Though the report withholds making sweeping recommendations, Poletayev thinks that some systematic changes will come about in conjunction with the upcoming report from the Student Experience Trip.

"Hopefully they'll propose some fundamental changes," including ideas on how to change advising.

Bound copies of the report

have been placed in each student house and into the hands of some faculty and administrators. A forty-page version of the report compiled by Csilla Felsen '08, former ARC chair, contains every opinion expressed at the SEC; a condensed version was compiled by Poletayev this fall.

Though Poletayev thinks the 40-page report is worth reading--and according to Tsay, professors have already commented how "thoughtful" it is--his goal is to have more people thinking and talking about changing Caltech.

"We'll reach some people. We can never do too much."

Over two hundred students, faculty, and administration showed up to the SEC last spring. A few dozen students replied to an online ARC survey, and each house held discussion groups led by ARC reps.

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## In time abroad, a chance to reflect on Caltech

### In Scotland, the balance between fun and work is yours; teachers care a little more

By Marissa Cevallos

STAFF WRITER

Trying to compare Caltech with any university, let alone a European one, is a daunting task. After spending a semester abroad at the University of Edinburgh I can't say which university is "better," but I can compare the two. I think it's worth trying to not only to surf the tide of student desire for change, but to give Caltech credit for what it does well. Too often, this page ignores Caltech's strengths, and it's usually my fault.

For one, the Caltech administration cares very intimately about the lives of its students. At Edinburgh, where the enrollment topped 20,000 students, mingling with the president or deans at an afternoon social is a logistical impossibility. The student newspaper tended to run flashy stories criticizing the administration, but

it was more a cry for attention than a two-way discussion about change.

We may lament that nothing ever changes around Caltech—and many traditions never have—but we have a much larger fighting chance than most schools.

The quality of teaching always depends on the enthusiasm of the lecturer, but each department can partially shoulder the tough task of teaching by making sure courses are presented in a logical order and that course notes and materials are available online. While taking physics classes at Caltech, I've always been perplexed by the idea of a tensor. Every time it came up in class, the professor would say something like "if you're not familiar with this, you should look it up." Maybe one of my classmates can prove me wrong, but I don't ever remember a professor taking time to properly explain this mathematical construct.

I'm sure other students can remember times during freshman year when a professor or TA assumed we'd already seen differential equations.

At Edinburgh, I took a class all about tensors and scalar fields in physics. You were supposed to take it before or during classical and quantum mechanics, when you need it. Caltech students are clever, but that's no excuse to skip teaching a few topics here and there.

I'm torn on the work load comparison. The University of Edinburgh, like many universities in America, assigns few problem sets and your grade is usually based on a final exam, but I'm not sure students learn as much as they do at Caltech. A professor told me that survey after survey showed students spending very little time studying. Freshman year is for partying, and with plenty of bars and a drinking age of 18, they do get out and have fun.

On the other hand, a slower pace allows you to think deeply about what you're learning, a luxury Caltech students may have had in high school but complain they miss now. The understanding may come after graduation, or so some alumni claim, but feeling overwhelmed and left behind isn't how most people describe "the best years of their lives."

I think it's fair to say that while abroad, I could choose how much I wanted to work, and how much I wanted to play. Caltech's core requirements dictate a high level of work, and this level is probably much higher than I would have the discipline to do if left to my own devices.

The social life was so different at a large school that it's not feasible to replicate the good aspects. You could be roommates with an art history major or grab drinks with a political scientist. For the most part, friendships at Edinburgh are formed in the first

year and through clubs, but you have to actively seek people with similar interests. Many people are friends with people in their major, like at Caltech.

I happened to make friends with the girls in my 5-bedroom flat. In some ways, the friendships were formed out of convenience, like those in the house system. To venture outside of that circle involved joining a club and walking fifteen minutes to a meeting. At Caltech, crossing the Olive Walk is much easier. Perhaps the barriers between houses are more artificial walls created out of our own timidity and lack of initiative.

The semester I spent abroad was one of the best I've had, and I encourage anyone who's ever doubted that Caltech was the right choice to take the plunge. It's not just a chance to learn about yourself, but a chance to appreciate the school that loaned you out in the first place.

### The California Tech

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## Cambridge pretty good, but Caltech's not too shabby either

By Joel Nikolaus

STAFF WRITER

After listening to a lot of criticism of Caltech over this last year, the Study Abroad program gave me the opportunity to finally compare Caltech to another institution. To be completely honest, I did not think the two would really be much of a comparison. Cambridge is located in a beautiful historic city, does not grade sets, possesses a seemingly endless list of student clubs and activities, and offers plenty of access to those otherwise elusive non-science majors.

Yet after spending a term abroad

not only do I return to Caltech without any real regrets, but I am genuinely glad to be here.

I think what was most responsible for this change of perspective was that the time abroad made me appreciate the good aspects of Caltech. Caltech classes seemed a lot warmer and friendlier than those at Cambridge, and it was not just the classes. Overall, Cambridge came across as a much more distant and impersonal place, and it seems like the administration here actually cares a lot more about its students.

I saw many of the same problems at Cambridge as I had seen at Caltech. The teaching at Cambridge might have been marginal-

ly better than Caltech's, but I still would not call it stellar. Lectures were still lectures and professors still went through the material too fast or spoke too softly. Even though this does not really change anything, it certainly made me a lot happier. Misery likes company, I guess.

If everyone at Cambridge manages to more or less deal with the similar crap and still be happy, I guess I can give it a shot as well.

That is not to say I do not think there are things that Caltech could not still improve. For one, the professors at Cambridge seemed very organized. Every class was accompanied by an impressive stack of lecture notes, and even

if the lectures weren't any better given than those at Caltech, with the notes in front of you there was no need to hastily scribble down what the professor was writing on the board.

Also, Cambridge professors seemed to have a good idea what was going on in other courses. It is something that Caltech does not seem to do nearly as well.

I expected Cambridge to be better than Caltech, but everything taken into account, Caltech is actually a pretty good place.

## Optional health insurance not something to cough at

By Wesley Yu

STAFF WRITER

Why should students be forced to buy health insurance they don't need? The obvious answer is that they shouldn't.

The practicality of Caltech's recent decision to make its health insurance plan optional is overwhelming. In an informal survey of Avery and Lloyd members, 53 out of 70 students were double covered by Caltech health insurance. These students will save nearly \$2,000 next year when they opt-out of Caltech's program. In addition, Caltech will save almost a half million dollars in financial aid. That money can be used to help many more students afford tuition. In the current economy, these savings are golden.

It seems clear that students shouldn't have to buy insurance they don't need, but some think otherwise. Naysayers have argued that, as students opt-out of the program, Caltech's insurance plan will become more expensive while yielding fewer benefits. But these claims are unsubstantiated by facts.

Caltech is the only major university that requires its students to buy health insurance they don't need. Harvard, Yale, Princeton, MIT, UC Berkeley, Rice, and the Claremont Colleges all give their students the option of waiving insurance coverage. So there is no reason to believe that the same system would fail at Caltech.

A simple comparison between Rice University's optional insurance plan and Caltech's mandatory insurance plan reveals that

optional plans do not significantly decrease quality of care. Rice's insurance benefits are very similar to those of Caltech's. Rice's deductible is \$250 while Caltech's is \$150, but Rice's aggregate lifetime maximum, the highest amount the insurance is willing to pay for a patient's expenses, is twice as high as Caltech's. Making a plan optional does not increase the cost, either. In fact, Rice students pay only \$1,732 per year for insurance while Caltech students currently pay \$1,917 per year.

The change in Caltech's insurance policy will benefit a vast majority of Caltech students and will help families get through tough economic times.

## What's ASCIT For?

By Dvin Adalian

IHC SECRETARY

Seventy-four years ago the Associated Students became an incorporated body. What is it there for, though? What do we want it to do? Why bother having a student government that only a fraction of students listen to or participate in? Why is it like this? Who cares?

The following paragraph is a brief history lesson, which you can feel free to skip. ASCIT changed as the needs of the student body and the environment around the student body changed over many decades. The three trends that have had the largest impact on the state of the current ASCIT are the rise in Student Affairs administration, the end of the activist era of the 70's, and the shift in attention of the student body to their Houses. ASCIT has lost many of its previous responsibilities to various departments in Student Affairs over the past 30 years. After an increased student interest in government affairs, ASCIT expanded around the 60's to include the "long-term thinking" Excomm and the two Directors at Large; but that structure no longer fits the attitude of undergrads. Interest in ASCIT slowly declined, after the North Houses were built and fewer students were kicked off campus than ever. As friction over various policy issues (alcohol, fires, Housing) with faculty and administration increased during the 80's and 90's, students became more involved in the organizations that did not involve faculty and administrators, organizations in which they felt more comfortable: their Houses. All of these factors have contributed to an increased emphasis on House governments over ASCIT.

Despite all of this, we still have ASCIT, and sometimes the student body forgets that we still expect ASCIT to accomplish a few things for us. The BoC is derived from the Associated Students, as is the ARC, that body we're supposed to use to fix Caltech academics instead of griping to ourselves. We expect the little t, Big T, etc. to be done. The current student body needs these things done competently, which of course requires support from the students in the form of competent officers in the BoD and various other positions.

For the time I've been here, the BoD has either gotten flack for trying to do some new unwanted thing or been neglected when students saw them as irrelevant. For ASCIT to be worthwhile, it needs to do the basic things right before the student body will respect it enough to collectively ask it do anything else. These basic things are:

I. Competently represent student opinion on nonacademic issues

-Despite what some students may feel about the ASCIT President, he is considered by non-students to be our student body representative, which makes semantic sense. Students should take that into account during election period. Another aspect of representation that is often ignored is those dozen-plus committees you hear about once-a-year. They're a valuable tool-- students on these committees represent student voice on policy issues discussed in Faculty Board committees. We often neglect their feedback potential, and this hurts the student body. Any-way, the ASCIT President and IHC Chair should both represent student opinion on nonacademic issues.

II. Competently represent student opinion on academic issues

-This is the ARC's job. If ARC fails to accomplish this job, it doesn't fail due to committee members' laziness or a lack of faculty respect. Failure basically comes from the lack of consideration the student body gives it, which is a cyclical problem. The faculty and faculty officers consider a lot of input from the ARC. But when's the last time you talked to your ARC rep? The ARC has suffered since a lot of students discard the ARC member positions as ineffective.

III. Coordinate student body-wide social events

-Some students want inter-house interaction, and some students don't care. In the past, when ASCIT had more support, the student-wide events were a good way to promote unity. Having a bit more Tech spirit would help the student body with a number of its collective problems. If you really want more inter-house interaction, just tell your Social VP/Team. Alternatively, walk ten feet and talk to people in another House. The Social Director and Sexcomm are in charge of this.

IV. Ensure that publications get done well

-Find some competent students to act as editors, make sure they do their job, and give them money if they do.

V. Fund qualified clubs

-We currently support the student clubs through ASCIT dues.

VI. Provide universal resources competently

-This basically means keeping an inventory and controlling distribution and maintenance of some ASCIT property that can be borrowed by Houses, people, clubs etc. as opposed to losing and breaking stuff.

I want a student government that accomplishes these things well.

If we want ASCIT to do these things, we need to participate in it. We will always need qualified people for the Big T, ARC, and Tech. Everyone knows Caltech isn't perfect. ASCIT was made by former Caltech undergrads to solve our problems -- if we don't step up, then nothing gets fixed. Your apathy just makes it more likely that incompetent people will represent you to the administration and that bad decisions will be made.

I will be proposing a reform of ASCIT that slims it down, increases the accountability of the officers, and makes it more efficient at getting the things we want to get done, done. Put some consideration into ASCIT elections this term.

ADVERTISEMENT

The California Tech meets every Monday and Friday for lunch at Broad Cafe.

Drop in and see what's cooking.

# BACK FOR BOBA

*The California Tech's food critics Andrew Freddo and Dannah Almasco return after a one-term hiatus*

## GRADE: B

**Introduction:** To start off a new year with new food reviews, we popped into Beard Papa's, a brand-new branch of the worldwide chain that opened up on Lake Avenue just south of Macy's.

**Goal:** Is Beard Papa's a more accessible place for Techers to get boba?

**Stockroom Options:** Beard Papa's is a bakery that specializes in cream puffs. Other desserts-- mostly variations on this theme-- include cookie puffs, éclairs, and some other desserts. To drink, they have smoothies, boba, and coffee.

**Materials and Cost:** We tried the milk tea and green tea boba (\$2.25 each). We also had the classic cream puff (\$1.95), éclair (\$2.25), and fondant au chocolate (\$2.50).

**Observations:** Milk tea is the most basic boba flavor. Beard Papa's boba tea was not only diluted and bland—it was warm! It essentially had only the muted taste of the tapioca balls. Because the temperature was so unbearable, we questioned if there was supposed to be ice. They had forgotten to add ice to the drink and promptly did so, although this made the boba even more dilute.

In contrast, the green tea boba came with ice. The flavor of this drink was much more pronounced, oddly with a hint of cinnamon. Overall, it tasted very good, although did not taste at all like green tea boba does at other boba stands.

Beard Papa's cream puffs are much larger than those you buy in the frozen section of Costco; they are about the same size as donuts. The cream itself is very rich and thick, and had a vanilla flavor. The crust was very light and flaky, and dissolves in your mouth.

Similarly, the éclair had a flaky crust with the same filling as in the cream puffs. What sets this apart from the plain puff is the chocolate shell on top. This adds a tasty dimension to the dessert.

When ordering the fondant au chocolate, make sure to get it warmed! This makes the center of the mini-cake molten. Essentially, it is a standard chocolate cake, and like everything else, very rich. It is a small portion, but it is enough to satisfy as a mid-afternoon snack or dessert.

**Atmosphere:** Beard Papa's wraps each pastry carefully, placing them in neat to-go bags. If you buy a half-dozen or dozen cream puffs, they have special carrying cases. This makes it convenient to bring to a party or as a gift. Though there are tables there to eat at, these are small and most people just grab their order and go.

**Conclusion:** We originally came to Beard Papa's with the intent of discovering a new boba location, but were promptly disappointed. Fortunately, Beard Papa's pulls through with solid bakery options. Though there are not many choices, each one is rich and satisfying. A great alternative to other grab-and-go dessert spots on Lake Avenue, such as Coldstone and Winchell's.



## Forum Discusses Starting Up In Tough Times

by David Renshaw

**F**our business executives and two venture capitalists spoke to an audience of aspiring entrepreneurs in a crowded Baxter Lecture Hall on Saturday morning. They discussed how startup companies can cope, and possibly prosper, in a down economy.

"Entrepreneurs should not be alarmist," said Jonathan Greenblatt in response to gloomy opening remarks by a moderator. "I think this is a time of enormous opportunity."

The event was entitled "War Stories from the Front Line: Critical Insights on Building a Successful Venture in Challenging Times." It was organized as part of the Caltech/MIT Enterprise Forum, a 25 year old program which aims "to educate entrepreneurs in the tech sector," according to its manager Stephanie Yanchinski.

Greenblatt, who resembles the actor Vin Diesel in both face and voice, has made a career of creating what he calls "ethical branding." He builds companies that are fundamentally tied to a charitable cause. For example, half the profits of Ethos, his bottled water company, are donated to help distribute clean water in needy parts of the world. In his talk, he advised founders to begin by determining a clear mission, and only then to build a company around it. And to survive in hard times, companies should focus on the basics: delivering "stake-

holder return" and understanding that "cash is always king." Greenblatt pointed out that one advantage of a recession is that talent becomes cheap. "There are some great people out there who have been laid off."

Also among the speakers, and also with a shaved head, was BigStage.com CEO Phil Ressler. He talked about his start in the 1970's, when, like today, the stock market was stagnant and unemployment was high. Although cash is indeed king in such times, just saving money is not an effective strategy. Ressler emphasized that companies must grow or die. "This is America. We grow our way out of our problems, and if we stop doing that, we start being like everyone else."

Beau Laskey, Managing Director at Steamboat Ventures, presented a different point of view, portraying 2009 as "the year to survive,"--- certainly not a growth year. But Laskey did agree with other panelists on several points. One was the importance of marketing. "Everyone is a salesman these days; you've got to be." Another was the sheer difficulty of being an entrepreneur. "It's a pretty lonely place to be." After all this advice, Beau gave a disclaimer. "I don't take advice from anybody."

Some members of the audience did not come for advice anyway. "The real reason to be here is the networking," said Glenn Friesen,

who works for a startup in Long Beach. And indeed much networking took place. During the continental breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00, scores of businesspeople in designer jeans and sports jackets were shaking hands, patting backs, and throwing around the standard openers: "Nice to meet you," "What do you do?" and "Here's my card." Big companies were well represented; a casual glance at nametags could quickly find Google, Disney, and HBS. After the talks, many people wanted to meet the high-profile panelists. Six lines formed in front of the speakers as audience members queued up to introduce themselves.

Chatting during the post-event networking session, Friesen discussed an idea of his. Since all of this networking seems to be so valuable, why don't we let more people participate? What if there was a way that people could attend the Forum over the Internet? What if they could not just hear the talks and see the slides, but also be able to ask questions and interact like in a video conference or a chat room? We could charge five dollars for electronic admission.

A convincing pitch. At least for Friesen, the entrepreneurial spirit was alive and well.

The Enterprise Forum holds an event each month during the school year. Admission is \$40 for non-students, \$10 for students, and free for Caltech Students. The next event will be held on February 7.

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### California Institute of Technology



Caltech Jazz Bands featuring  
world famous musician FLEA!

**Date:** Friday, January 23, 2009

**Time:** 8:00 PM

**Place:** Beckman Auditorium on the Caltech campus, near the corner of Del Mar and Michigan in Pasadena.

For more information, please call the Caltech Ticket Office at 626 395-4652.

Caltech Jazz Bands, directed by William Bing, in a free concert featuring the jazz trumpet artistry of Flea, world famous member of the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Music selections to include "Blue Train", "Some Skunk Funk", "Take the A Train", "Basin Street Blues", "El Macho Muchacho", and "Billie's Bounce". There will also be new music arrangements by Les and Elliot Deutsch.

*No tickets are required.*

*This is a free concert, so get there early for a good seat!*

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California Institute of Technology

## Some on Health Committee surprised by new plan

*Years ago, they recommended against an opt-out policy*

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graduate member of the Health Committee, feels differently. Cerundolo has major concerns about opt-out health insurance, and didn't realize that anything had been decided until his parents received a letter informing them of the option to opt-out. "It was a complete surprise to me, which shouldn't happen to someone on the Health Committee."

According to Sargent, Health Committee Chair Hoffman participated in a discussion of the new health insurance policy during which "there appeared to be no major obstacles to implementing the waiver."

"I knew that the odds were it was going to be adopted," said

Hoffman. "But that [that the decision was not final] was my impression too."

According to Hoffman, the Health Committee will at least be able to have a say in the implementation of the policy. "Students can have a voice in putting this into practice, to address their concerns," he said.

A couple of years ago, the Health Committee was asked to evaluate the possibility of an opt-out health insurance policy and recommended against it. At the time, members were worried that administering an opt-out system would be very costly administratively and negatively affect the health plan, according to Hoffman. "I think their worries were overblown," he said.

## News Briefs

News Briefs from Caltech Today  
[today.caltech.edu](http://today.caltech.edu)

### Final Round of the Doris S. Perpall SURF Speaking Competition

The third and final round in the Perpall speaking competition will take place from 2 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 15, in Beckman Institute auditorium. Eight finalists, named the best speakers out of 250 who presented their research on SURF Seminar Day in October, are Evan Gawlik, Thomas Gwinn, Anna Hiszpanski, Xue-liang (Leon) Liu, Kasra Rahbar, Kimberly Scott, Ila Varma, and Muzhou (Mitchell) Wang.

### Caltech Scientists Create Titanium-Based Structural Metallic-Glass Composites

Caltech scientists have created a range of titanium-based structural metallic-glass composites that are lighter and less expensive than any the group had previously created, but still tough and ductile. Douglas Hofmann and William Johnson, Caltech's Ruben F. and Donna Mettler Professor of Engineering and Applied Science, were motivated to make zirconium composites with similar toughness and ductility heavier—the higher density composites can now be used in aerospace structures.

### Caltech Launches Undergraduate Research Opportunities Handbook Online

Caltech's Academics and Research Committee and the Student-Faculty Programs Office have created an online version of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Handbook (UROH).

Formerly a paper publication, this resource has been relaunched as a website at <http://uroh.caltech.edu>. UROH provides an easy way for faculty to recruit undergraduate students to their labs and for students to learn about available research positions (not including those in the SURF program).

## ASCIT Advertisement

### ASCIT Elections

The season for ASCIT elections has begun!

Elections will proceed as follows:

#### Elections Schedule

- 1/14: President/VP sign-up period begins (8:00 AM)
- 1/20: President/VP sign-up period ends (5:00 PM)
- 1/23: Candidate statements due
- 1/26: Elections for President/VP (from 10:00 AM to 11:59 PM)
- 1/26: President/VP debate (noon)
- 1/27: Protest period
- 1/28: Election results posted (midnight – 10:00 AM)
- 1/28: Other positions open for sign-up (8:00 AM)
- 2/3: Other positions close for sign-up (5:00 PM)
- 2/6: Candidate statements due
- 2/9: Elections for other offices (10:00 AM – 11:59 PM)
- 2/9: IHC Chair debate (noon)
- 2/10: Protest period
- 2/11: Election results posted (midnight – 10:00 AM)

#### Position Descriptions and Eligibility

Nominees for President and VP must be current ASCIT members.

**President:** The President shall be the official representative of the Corporation, and he shall preside at its meetings. He shall be chairman, without vote unless a tie occurs, of the Board of Directors and a member of the Executive Committee. He shall have ultimate responsibility for proper observance of all responsibilities delegated to members of the Board of Directors. He must be either a junior or senior in the fall term immediately following his election.

**Vice President:** The Vice President shall, during absences of the President, assume the duties of that office. He shall assist the President in coordinating the policies and activities of the Associated Students. He shall act as Honor Chair with the primary responsibility of insuring the continuance and improvement of the Honor System among the students. He shall represent the undergraduates in all Honor Code-related matters and review the proceedings of both the Board of Control and the Conduct Review Committee. He must be either a junior or a senior in the fall term immediately following his election.

Any questions or comments should be submitted to:

Jason Cerundolo, Elections Committee Chair: [jrc@caltech.edu](mailto:jrc@caltech.edu)

Caleb Ng, ASCIT President: [pres@donut.caltech.edu](mailto:pres@donut.caltech.edu)

Noah Tanabe, Executive Committee Chair: [excomm@donut.caltech.edu](mailto:excomm@donut.caltech.edu)

Elections Committee (Jason Cerundolo, Ashley Potts, John Hasier, Hima El-Awady):

[elcom@ugcs.caltech.edu](mailto:elcom@ugcs.caltech.edu)

***Sports Briefs*****Men's basketball finds victory, again****By Evans Boney**

STAFF WRITER

After eleven games, new head coach Oliver Eslinger finally tasted victory as the men's basketball team defeated Polytechnic NYU 77-69 on Monday night.

Coming in with a ten-game losing streak, the hungry Beavers jumped on the visitors and took control immediately, roaring to a 7-0 lead in the first two minutes off of several Polytechnic turnovers. Hot shooting had Caltech on pace to break the 100-point mark 10 minutes into the game. Senior Travis Haussler took advantage of an undersized Blue Jays lineup, scoring 14 points in the first half to lead the Beavers to a 40-24 half time lead. An aggressive defense yielded 10 first half points off turnovers.

"The key was our preparation and our confidence going into the game," Eslinger said of the fast start. "We were aggressive from the jump and executed properly to get good shots."

The second half would prove more of a challenge for the Beavers, as Polytechnic began to pack the paint with a 2-3 zone defense that seemed to baffle the home team. After trading baskets for the first eight minutes of the second half, Polytechnic used

seven straight Caltech turnovers to cut a 15-point Beaver lead down to just four with 8:39 left in the game. A three-pointer by senior point guard Wei Li ended the 11-0 run, but the team never regained a double-digit lead down the stretch.

But the Beavers showed resilience, and never relinquished the lead, primarily thanks to near-perfection at the charity stripe. The team shot 20-of-24 from the Free Throw line in the second half. Senior Matt Dellatorre finished with a game-high 27 points, including 13-of-14 from the line.

When the final seconds ticked off, the Beavers made eight more free throws than their opponents attempted for the final margin of victory.

"The win felt - and still feels - awesome," Eslinger said of his first win. "I imagined what it might feel like, but it was even more overwhelming to actually live it. I was so proud and so happy for the players and our program that I really didn't know how to act. I just went with my heart."

"To see them come together and play with a lead the entire game was very impressive and a tribute to how hard they have been working with each other."

**Women's Bball gets first road win****By Yang Yang**

STAFF WRITER

The lady Beavers snapped a frustrating five-game losing streak by winning their last non-conference game 57-40 at Pacific Union College on Jan. 4.

The Pioneers took a 23-21 lead into halftime, but Caltech stormed back with strong defense and better shooting in the second half to close out the game. Pacific Union came up empty on countless possessions despite gathering 24 offensive rebounds, the team finished shooting a paltry 21.2 percent from the field. No player scored in double figures for the home team.

Freshman Krissy Dahl had a game high 28 points, 16 rebounds and five blocks in the victory; she finished 11-of-18 from the field and was a perfect 6-for-6 from the free-throw line.

The Beavers improved to 3-8 with the victory while Pacific

Union dropped its record to 0-11.

\*\*\*

However, the team did not take the momentum into conference play as the Beavers scored a season-low four points during their Wednesday SCIAC opener at CMS. Caltech managed just one field goal and two free-throws in the first half against the Athenas.

Freshman guard Erin Hoops matched her season-high with 10 points, making two of three 3-pointers to lead the Beavers in the scoring. The team outscored CMS 39-36 in the second half to finish the game 81-43.

\*\*\*

The team began on a more auspicious note Saturday, scoring the game's first points

against Pomona-Pitzer. After battling to a 2-2 tie five minutes into the game, the Sagehens used a banked three-pointer to spark a 17-0 run to blow the game open. The team went scoreless from the free-throw line in the first half despite seven attempts.

The Beavers came out of the locker room with more aggression and continued to attack the basket. The team took no three-pointers in the second half and shot 12-of-14 free-throws. Dahl had a game-high 15 points for the Beavers while five players finished in double-figure scoring for the Sagehens.

\*\*\*

The team is still without junior Lisa Yee, who sprained her foot during the team's loss to Holy Names on Dec. 30. She's expected to return for Thursday's game against La Verne.

**The Winter Scoreboard****Dec. 17**

Men's Basketball vs. Lawrence

L 96-55

**Dec. 18**

Men's Basketball vs. Gwynedd-Mercy

L 93-44

**Dec. 20**

Women's Basketball vs. Chatham

L 69-57

**Dec. 21**

Women's Basketball vs. New Jersey City

L 60-52

**Dec. 29**

Women's Basketball at Menlo College

L 62-49

**Dec. 30**

Women's Basketball at Holy Names

L 77-30

**Dec. 31**

Men's Basketball vs. Amherst

L 106-5

**Jan. 2**

Women's Basketball at Cal St. Maritime

L 67-35

Men's Basketball vs. Babson

L 81-42

**Jan. 4**

Women's Basketball at Pacific Union

W 57-40

**Jan. 5**

Men's Basketball vs. Polytechnic NYU

W 77-69

**Jan. 8**

Women's Basketball at CMS

L 81-43

**Upcoming Games****Jan. 14**

Men's Basketball at La Verne  
7:30 P.M.

**Jan. 15**

Women's Basketball vs. Whitworth  
7:30 P.M.

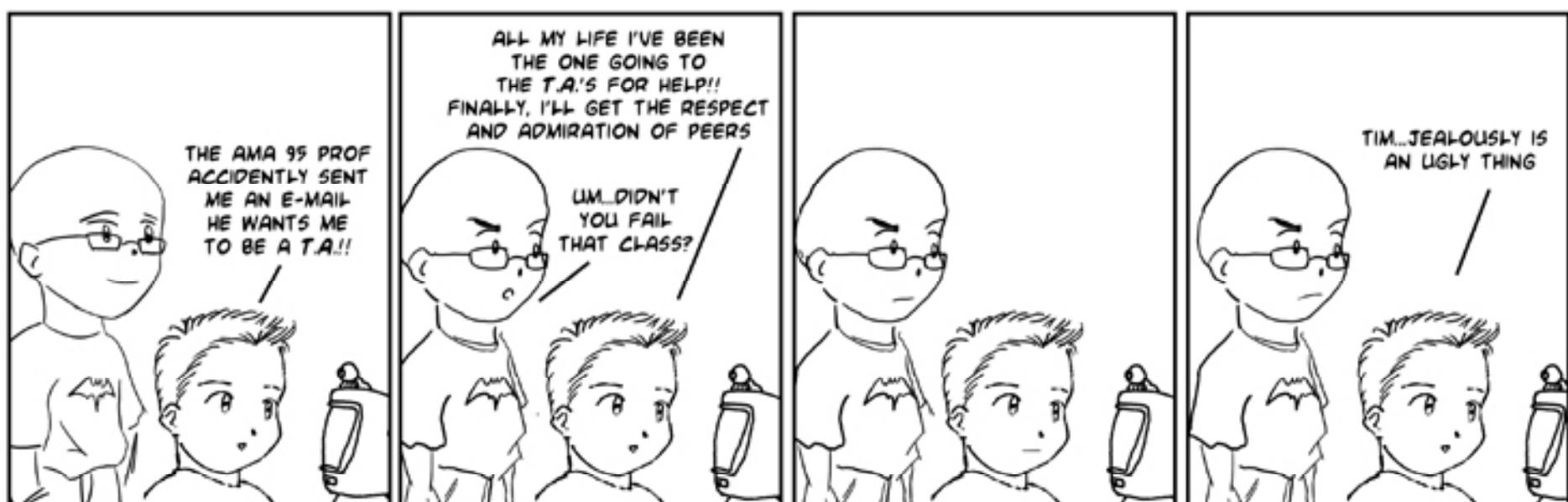
**Jan. 16**

Swimming and Diving at Occidental  
11:00 A.M.

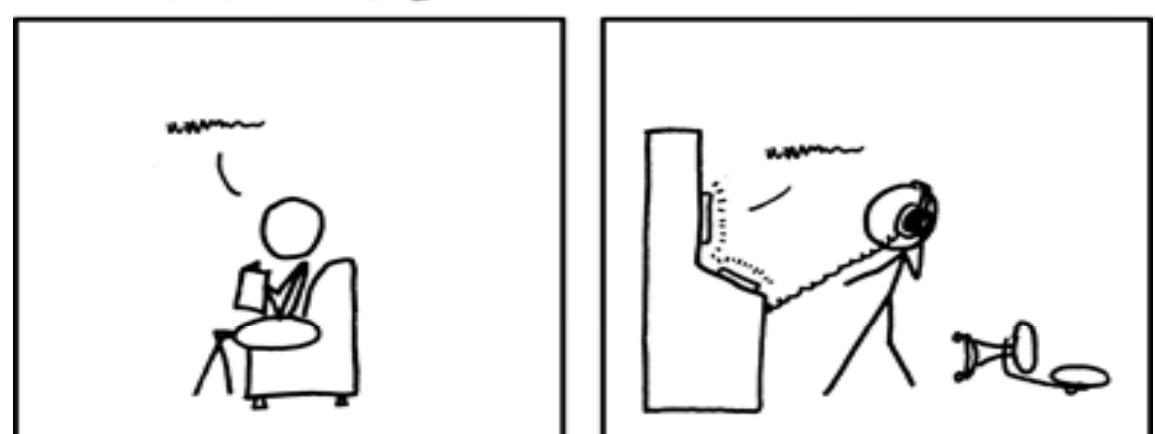
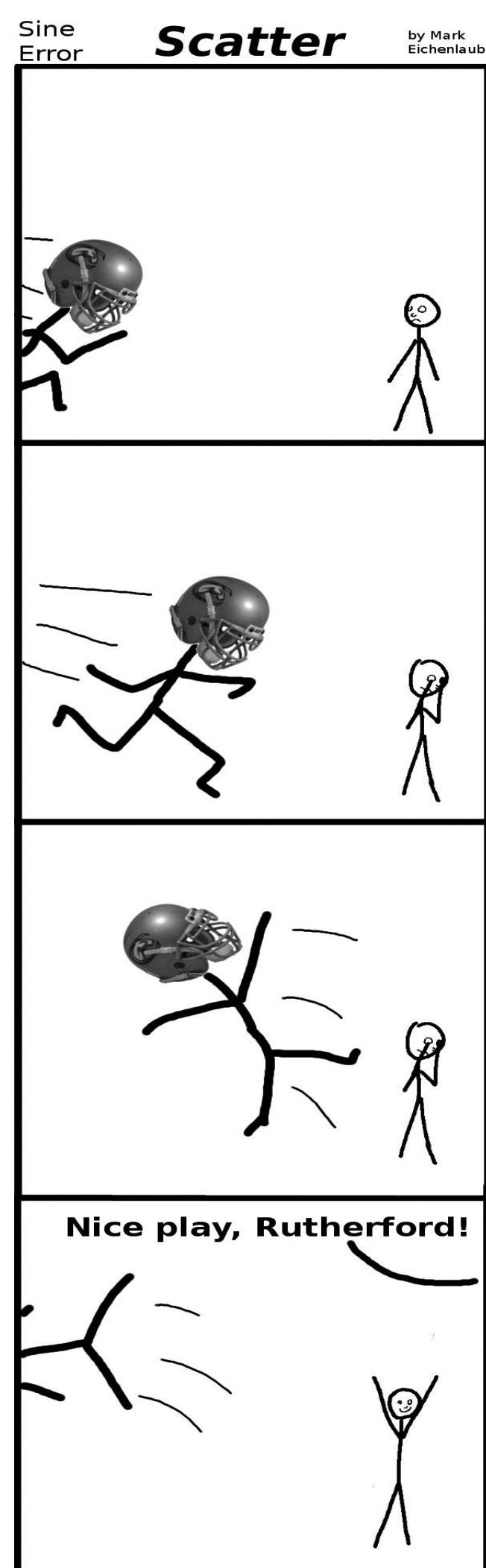
**Jan. 17**

Swimming and Diving vs. Pomona-Pitzer  
11:00 A.M.  
Women's Basketball vs. Whittier  
5:00 P.M.  
Men's Basketball vs. Whittier  
7:30 P.M.

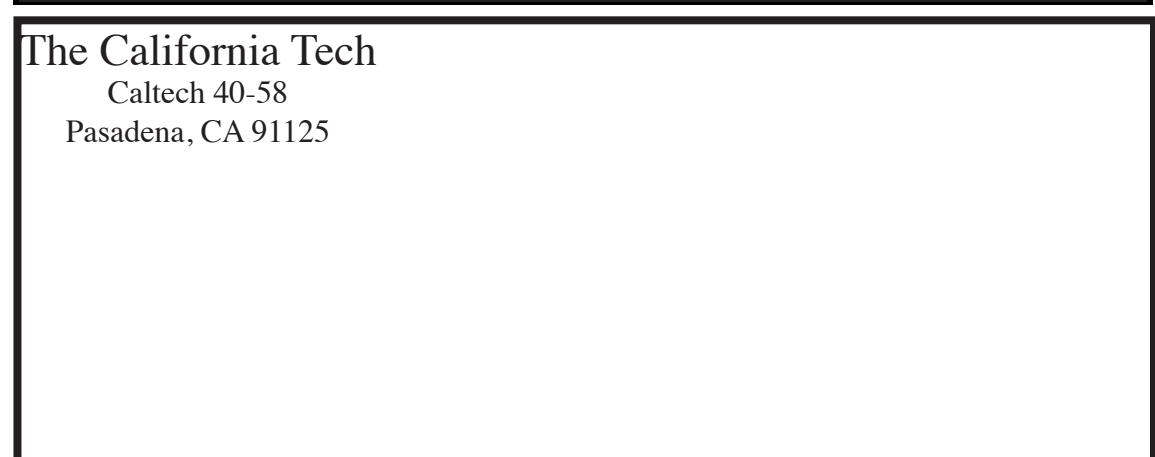
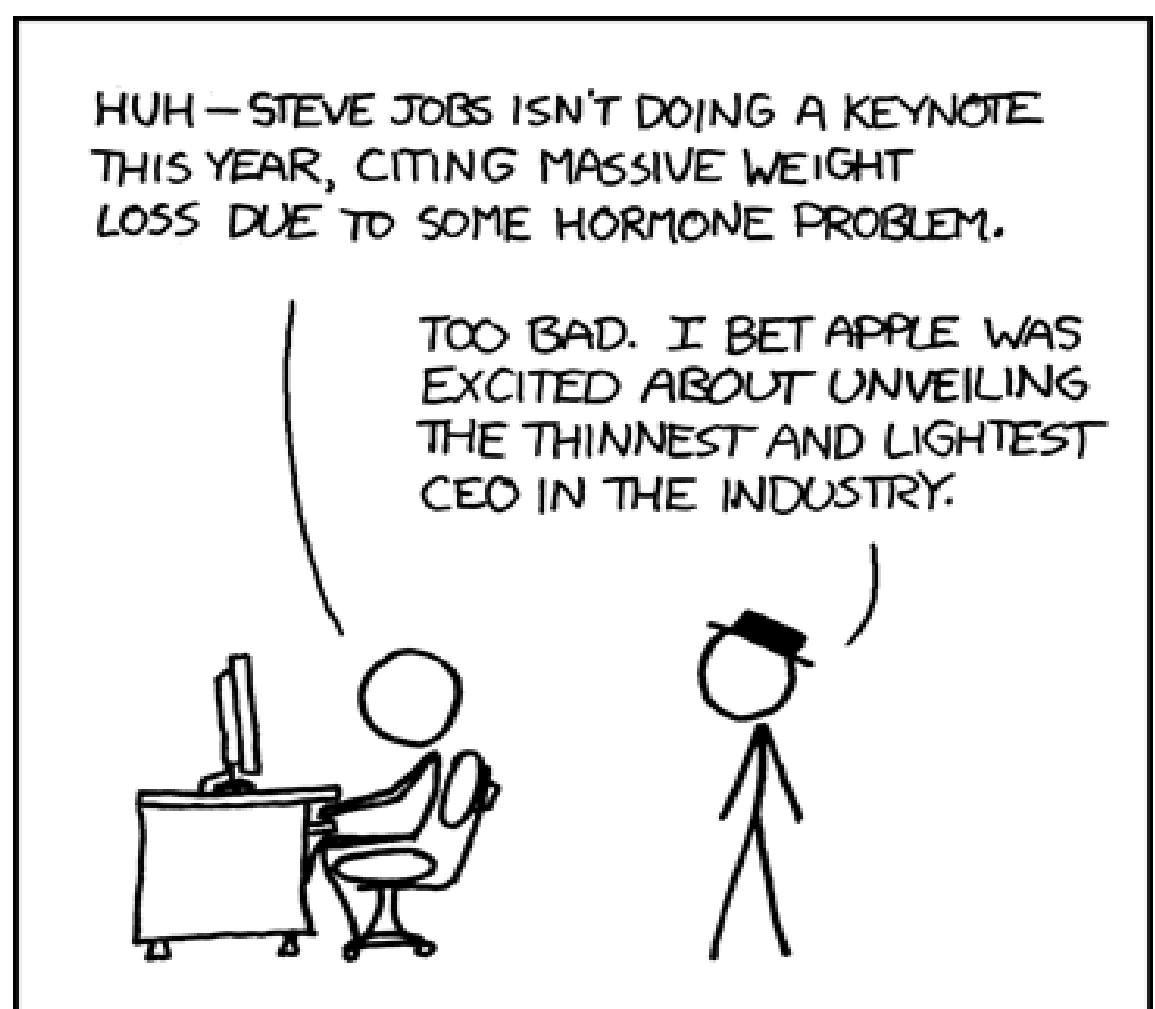
## Comics



Crippling Depression courtesy of Tim Wan, Mike Yeh, Ben Lee



IF I'M WRONG, NO ONE KNOWS.  
AND IF I'M RIGHT, MAYBE I JUST FREAKED  
THE HELL OUT OF SOME SECRET ORGANIZATION.



XKCD bvy Randall Munroe

XKCD bvy Randall Munroe