

THE CALIFORNIA TECH



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APRIL 17, 2006

Flems Returning Cannon from Boston, Debate Ensues

BY: MATTHEW GLASSMAN

In a daring display of house spirit and Caltech pride, almost two dozen members of Fleming House responded to MIT's recent prank by flying out to Boston to retrieve their cannon.

With only a day's notice, the 23 students organized themselves and jumped on planes bound for the east coast. There, they met up with 7 alumni from the area to converge on the stolen property early last Monday morning. Having been tipped off just before Caltech was about to make its appearance, MIT students waited with a barbecue prepared. They watched as Fleming attached harnesses and tires to the 110-year old antique and dragged it to a tow truck idling nearby.

"The thing is not light," remarked Fleming President Scott Jordan, who led the group onto the campus with the traditional ringing of the house bell. The fact that MIT students were fore-

warned was unexpected but not disheartening. "The idea of this was not to be secretive. Our goal was to get them quietly, but once we were on campus, we wanted to make a lot of noise."

As a token of good will, the Flems left a miniature toy cannon in its place, with a sign that read, "Here's something a little more your size."

The 30 students and alumni on the ground in Boston were supported by a team that manned a round-the-clock command center back home.

MIT's theft of the cannon in late March roused the Caltech community as a whole, particularly members of Fleming, who regard it as an important symbol of their history and traditions. The east coasters planned their hack as a reply to Caltech's prank that occurred last year around the same time.

While Caltech has received national media coverage from the counter-prank, there are differing opinions as to whether or

not students should have gone out there at all. A few students felt that all that money was spent for something that was coming back anyways.

"I didn't think it was worth the \$30,000," said one Techer, citing the upper bound of the estimate of total costs for the trip. "We could have admitted that they got us this time, let them ship it back, and next year prank them with something much better."

The fact that the cannon belongs specifically to Fleming did not help to stimulate unanimous support for its return from some unaffiliated students. Perhaps without realizing it, MIT students prodded a tender issue in the interhouse community with this hack.

"While it is not the intention, the house system can divide us at times," one student remarked. "This has just exposed some of the divisions."

Nevertheless, President Jordan has received support and congratulations from the rest of the



Flems tow their cannon away last Mon. It should arrive Wed.

Interhouse Committee (IHC), which is made up of all the house presidents.

"When we got back, [the IHC] seemed interested in hearing about the trip," Jordan recalled. He has also been approached by other people on campus. "Some

people go out of their way to tell me that we did a good job."

The Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Tom Mannion, championed their efforts. Flying out late Sunday to meet the group in Boston, Mannion found the

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Photo by Vincent Auyeung (www.flemingcannon.com)

Premeds Relax a Bit

BY: VIBHA LALJANI

UC San Diego has invited Caltech to participate in its Medical Scholars Program. As a member of this program, the Caltech Admissions Committee will select the best applications amongst the pool of applicants interested in medicine, and share these applications with the UCSD Admissions Committee. About six of these applicants will be offered early admission to the UCSD Medical School.

Prof. Paul H. Patterson, a Faculty Board Member of the Officers of the Faculty said that Caltech is hoping to make this program

available to next fall's applicants. The admission, however, will be contingent on the continuation of good academic record – a standing GPA of 3.5- and high extracurricular standing.

This program will avert the stress among students undergoing the competitive procedures of med-school admissions. Also, the medical school has waived the MCAT, which is time consuming and requires a lot of preparation.

For years, Caltech has lost several of its premeds. In the past, due to Caltech's rigorous requirements in physics and math, premeds tend to have lower GPAs rel-

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Quiz Bowl Almost Owns

BY: YAN ZHANG
AND NOAH RAHMAN

The Caltech Quiz Bowl team took third place at the National Academic Quiz Tournaments' Invitational College Tournament, the most widely recognized national college Quiz Bowl championship. The team competed in Division II, which is restricted to first time competitors at nationals. Broken up into 4 pools of 8 in the preliminaries, Caltech notably beat Harvard, which had the captains of three out of the top four high school teams from last year, and Stanford, which is captained by last year's College Jeopardy champion Nico Martinez. The team's only losses were to Princeton B by a ten-point margin and Amherst College by a 310-195 blowout. Had it not been for the Amherst loss, Caltech would have played either Harvard or Stanford in the final, but instead all three teams were tied at 11-2

at the end of regulation play. The right to play in the final then went to tiebreakers, in which Stanford crushed Harvard, and then Harvard beat Caltech by 20 points in a close match. Stanford proceeded to crush Harvard in the final, depriving Blacker frosh Mitchell Wang and Dabney sophomore Ning Bao of the chance to fulfill their promise to perform an a cappella version of Kanye West's "Gold Digger" at the awards ceremony if the Caltech team finished first. Other team members were Ruddock freshmen Daniel Rowlands and Noah Rahman, who finished as the second highest scoring individual in Division II, and Page sophomore Yan Zhang, who much to his discontent, did not get a tossup about Yao Ming during the tournament.

On a somewhat unrelated note the Quiz Bowl team will be hosting their annual Intramurals tournament in the near future. Details will be released soon.

Blacker Party at Saddam's Palace



Moles spent countless hours to theme their party as one of Saddam's Palaces. In this photo, a statue of Saddam gets final touches while a tank stands ready to launch Weapons of Mass Destruction.



Lizzy Trower makes a bid for the disk in the UCLA-B game. Full story on page 12.

Photo by David Dow

Photo by Marissa Cevallos

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Teachers Practice Skills at Pretending for Visting Prefrosh

BY: YANG YANG

What can visiting prefrosh expect from their first night at the California Institute of Technology, where Stephen Hawking recently gave a talk on cosmology?

"A crazy old lady, a huge nerd and a cross dresser obsessed with McDonald's," according to senior John McNamara.

Not in real life, of course.

Visiting students will get a glimpse at the nonacademic side of Caltech at 7 p.m. on Thursday as Techers switch costumes for lab coats during the annual One Act Theater.

This year, five student directors carefully chose their own plays. Senior Tina Dwyer selected "Medea" by Christopher Durang, a comedic interpretation of classical Greek mythology. McNamara chose two pieces, "The Boor" by Anton Chekhov and "Tokyo Girl" by Caltech alum Nicolas Rupprecht. Popendorf opted for "Talking With..." by Jane Martin. Senior Hannah Shafaat also picked two plays, "Naomi in the Living Room" by Christopher Durang and "The Philadelphia" by David Ives. Thompson chose "It's Not You" by Craig Pospisil. Sophomore Nathan Donnellan capped off the selection with "Arabian Nights" by David Ives.

All five directors have participated in One Act theater before, and for Thompson, it's a chance

to finally tell a story her way.

"The best part of being a director is getting to choose the play and execute your vision," she said. "As an actor it can be frustrating to be told to do things you really don't want to do. My senior year in high school I was forced to wear a clown suit on stage because the costume lady thought it fit with my juggling. I escaped the clown makeup, but I was pretty mortified by having to wear the clown outfit. As a director, I have the final say, and I can entirely avoid clown outfits."

One Act Theater was started two years ago by three Caltech students, including current producer Kim Popendorf, to give students an "alternative opportunity at Caltech for students interested in being involved in theater," according to its website.

"TACIT has amazing productions, but they are very time consuming," Popendorf commented, "[One Act Theater] is more low key and accessible to undergrads."

By presenting a series of one act plays, the demand on the actor's and director's time is drastically cut down, allowing busier students to participate. Instead of memorizing 60-70 pages of dialogue, actors are only required to remember 10 pages or less. The short nature of the plays also allow for multiple rehearsals in a short hour. "The Boor," the longest play presented this year, is

expected to run for 30 minutes.

"The nice thing about One Act plays is that they are short enough that a lot can get done in one rehearsal," student-director Nyssa Thompson said. "So it's a lot easier for busy Techers to do a good job on a play without taking too much time out of their busy schedules."

Twenty-seven students auditioned for roles in the seven plays, a "bumper crop" according to Popendorf. McNamara was pleasantly surprised by the turnout.

"[The Boor]" was the ideal play for the people I saw audition," he said "[Miranda Stewart and Jon Napolitano] had absolute chemistry."

There was a mixture of students at auditions, from first-timers to veterans. Everyone was guaranteed a spot. However, if the popularity of One Act continues next year, there might have to be cuts in the future.

Most casts have been holding rehearsals several times a week since the beginning of term. Although some might consider the practices an extra burden, actors have found rehearsals to be refreshing.

"It's nice to step away from academic tasks like physics homework and math sets to go to rehearsal," freshman Alex Alemi, cast in "Tokyo Girl" said. "They're only about an hour long and usually we have a lot of fun."

After initial read-throughs to memorize their lines, the casts began tinkering with their performances and lines to fit them.

"Originally I played my character with a normal accent," Alemi said. "Then one practice Amit [Ghandi] jokingly suggested that I talk in a nasally voice the whole time. It worked, so we stuck with it."

While the actors were learning about their characters, student-directors also had to get acquainted with their roles.

"Directing is a learning experience," McNamara said. "When you act, you realize

Summary of Performances and Performers

Monologue: Audition – Kim Pop (3 min)

Audition – Cecilia Yu
It's Not You – Nyssa Thompson (10 min)
John - Peter Sadowski
Natalie - Emily Russell
Amber - Maritza Ruiz
Terry - Vera Pavel

Arabian Nights – Nate Donnellan (10 min)

Norman - Cliff Chang
Flora - Diana Lin
Interpreter - Cecilia Yu

Monologue: French Fries – Kim Pop (7 min)

French Fries - Dan McLaury

Tokyo Girl – John McNamara (15 min)

Brad - Amit Gandhi
Jonas - Alex Alemi
Orlando - Eric Johlin

Medea – Tina Dwyer (10 min)

Medea - Natalie Szweda
Jason - Tim Tirrell
Chorus - Cody Nash
Chorus member #3 - Ekta Bhojwani
Messenger - Nate Donnellan
Angel - Lee Feinman

Intermission

Monologue: Clean Glass Marbles – Kim Pop (10 min)

Clear Glass Marbles - Astrid Golomb
The Boor – John McNamara (30 min)
Smirnov - Jon Napolitano
Mrs. Popov - Miranda Stewart
Luka - John Sadowski

Naomi in the Living Room – Hannah Shafaat (10 min)

Naomi - Radhika Marathe
John - David Doll
Johnna - Jamie Jackson
The Philadelphia - Hannah Shafaat (10 min)

Mark - Sean Jezewski
Al - Leo Stein
Waitress - Hannah Shafaat

actors, both experienced and new," he said. "I think this play will be a highlight of the night through its playful wit and quite astounding acting on the part of the cast. I am looking forward to seeing this displayed in front of the prefrosh and student body and having them laugh their tails off. It epitomizes the true purpose of One Act Theatre: anyone can do it, anyone can have fun."

If long hours of commitment and comedic banter aren't enough to lure the audience, sophomore Dan McLaury has another offer.

"If you want to see me dressed like a woman cackling, spouting off pseudo-philosophical rants, just come knock on my door," he said. "But if you want to see this on stage, come see One Act Theater."

"I am really very proud of my



The casts of the various plays rehearse in preparation of Prefrosh Weekend. In the foreground, Kim Popendorf reviews a script.

ASCIT Board of Directors
Minutes from the Olive Walk
Wednesday, April 12, 2006

Present -

Officers: Todd Gingrich, Jean Sun, Jonathan Senn, Chris Watson, Vickie Pon, Csilla Felsen, Chris Gonzales, Nathan Donnellan, RJ Krom, Craig Montuori

Guests: David Chen, Jonathan Malmaud, Chris Klein, Dalina Thrift-Viveros, Jane Wang, John McKeen, Sam Lu, Caroline Li, Benjamin Park

1. Funding Requests

a. Clubs: John M. presented a budget proposal for club funding for the Caltech Cycling Club; Caroline L. presented a budget proposal for club funding for Out of Context; Sam L. presented a budget proposal for club funding for Building Bridges; Ben P. requested club funding from the Korean Student Association.

b. Totem: Jane W. requested additional funding for Totem, which already gets \$750 from the publications budget of ASCIT. Because Totem was so successful and organized last year, the BoD

considered this.

Vote: A vote was taken to grant Totem an additional \$250 from ASCIT Special Reserves. Vote passed (6Y/ON/0A).

c. Jazz Festival: Dalina from the Caltech Band Council requested \$500 for the upcoming Jazz Festival to help cover costs of hiring a professional soloist to play with the jazz bands in free public performances.

Vote: A vote was taken to grant the Caltech Band Council \$500 to help fund their Jazz Festival event. Vote passed (7Y/ON/0A).

2. Jon Senn's \$ Update

* ASCIT is getting new PTAs very soon. John is on top of his duties, sorting out many things.

* Many second term checks have not been delivered to clubs for unknown reasons. Jon is finding out what happened.

3. Tech Editors

* The BoD met with Margo Marshak earlier in the week. One of the items that came up was the instances of offensive material published in the California Tech recently.

* All the Tech editors were present at this BoD meeting to discuss what they are planning to do about concerns from various groups on campus, specifically the Muslim Student Association who told the BoD how upsetting the publication of an internationally controversial comic was to their group and others on campus. The Tech Editors will be meeting with the Muslim Student Association as soon as they can.

* A poll will come out to survey the undergraduates about how they feel about offensive material in the Tech, so the editors can tailor the Tech to what the students wish to have in their newspaper.

A statement about the offensive comic will be published in the Tech by the editors.

4. Staff Awards

* The poll for ASCIT Staff Awards is officially done. Chris W. will be organizing the results and will research who past years' awardees were. He will present a list of nominees to the BoD at the next meeting.

5. CRC Sign-ups

* RJ is getting sign-ups for

CRC very soon. Sign up to be a rep!

6. BoC Honor Code Survey

* Jean discussed how to get the entire student body to fill out the upcoming Honor Code Survey. The BoD reps are looking into the best medium and times by which to deliver the survey.

7. ASCIT Lights Manager

* Because the ASCIT lights need to be taken care of so the Soc Team and others can use them, a motion was made to appoint Chris G. as the temporary ASCIT Lights Manager.

Vote: A vote was taken to appoint Chris Gonzales as the ASCIT Lights Manager until sign-ups are completed. Vote passed (6Y/ON/1A).

8. New BoD Meeting Location ???

* Most likely, the BoD will meet in the side room of Chandler, adjacent to the C-Store, at 12:00 PM every Wednesday from now on. This will be a more central and visible location for our open meetings, rather than the Olive

Walk, while the South Houses are under construction.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Pon
ASCIT Secretary

The California Tech

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Guaranteed Med School

Continued from page 1

ative to students in other schools, so have a harder time getting into medical schools. Thus, premeds tend to avoid Caltech. This new program with the UCSD medical school may serve as an incentive for more premeds to attend Caltech.

Several concerns have been raised regarding the program. In the March 13 meeting of the Officers of the Faculty, an important situation was brought up - students who have a guaranteed seat and don't have to take the MCAT will not have any incentive to try for other good schools. Prof. Patterson responded that UCSD is one of the top 10-12 medical schools in the country, so we are not doing a disservice to the students.

At the same meeting Prof. Enslinger drew attention to the fact that Washington University had a similar program some years ago, and then they abandoned it. She suggested learning more about the program before undertaking it. Prof. Patterson said that the UCSD has not faced any prob-

lems.

There are about 10 of these programs in the USA. Prof. Patterson and a committee has talked to three of them, who responded that they are very happy having gotten top students into their programs. Several other undergraduate schools are considering this program.

Current premeds wholeheartedly agree that this is a wonderful program. Csilla Felsen, the Director of Academic Affairs and a premed said, "Our school is a good premed school because of research opportunities and a small school environment. The promise of a medical school would attract students who don't think of Caltech as a premed school. Moreover, all the time saved by those who have a guaranteed seat can be used for research". RJ Krom, a sophomore premed, agrees that this program is a brilliant idea. However, he said, "Students should still be required to take the MCAT which is the basis that all medical schools use, just so that they are not baited into it."

Financial Aid at Caltech

BY: JOHN McNAMARA

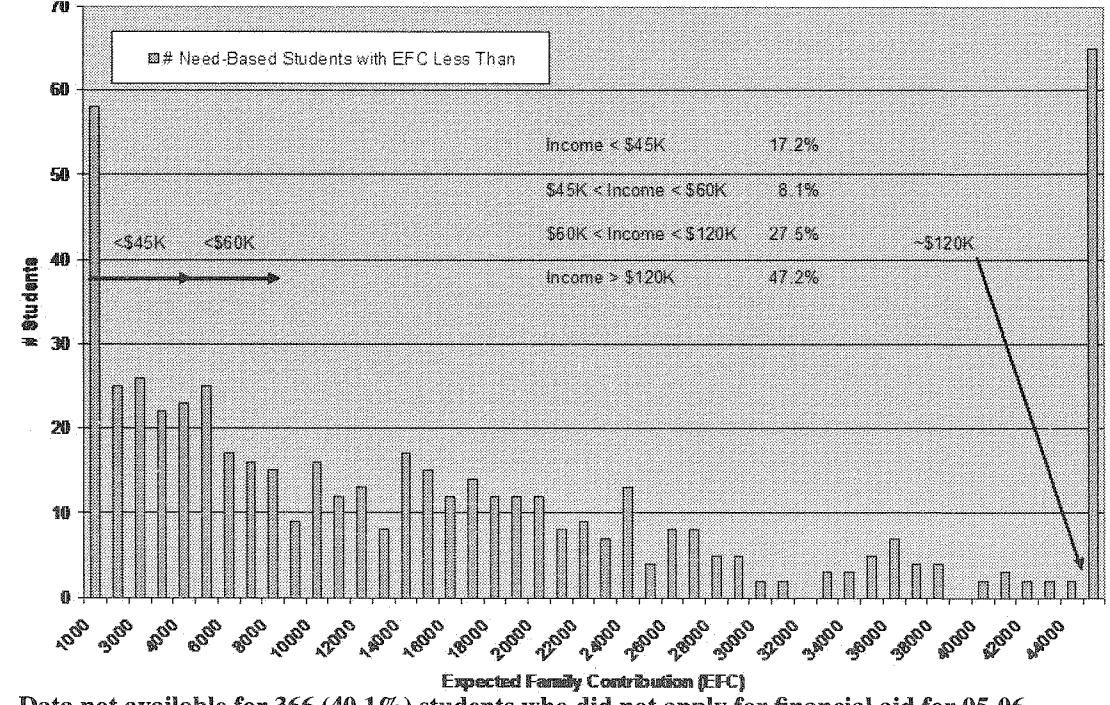
Stanford, in response to rising tuition costs and losing students to sticker shock, has implemented a plan to eliminate tuition for low-income students. According

to their new program, students whose families make less than \$45,000 in income will not have to pay tuition. In doing so, they join Harvard and Princeton in providing free tuition to select families.

At Caltech, there is no explicit

program such as this one, but "our students aren't paying tuition either," commented Susan L. Kolden, Assistant Director of Financial Aid. The campus is still committed to "meeting the full need and need blind admissions" of students, according to David Levy, Director of Financial Aid.

More info next week.



University % Pell Recipients 0405

University	% Pell Recipients 0405
Princeton	7%
Harvard	10%
Yale	10%
Duke	11%
U Penn	12%
Dartmouth	13%
Stanford	13%
MIT	14%
Columbia	15%
Caltech	17%

Pell Grants are given to students with low EFC's.

The Outside World

BY: HAMILTON FALK

Iran Determined to Continue Nuclear Program Despite International Objections

Iran has refused to suspend its uranium enrichment activities despite warnings from the U.N. Security Council as well as the United States, Russia and Britain. Iran claims to be enriching the uranium for use power plants to supply the growing nation's electricity needs, and has agreed to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Middle Eastern nation declined, however, to cease enrichment that would create uranium that could be used in a power plant, or in nuclear weapons. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stressed that Iran had the right to nuclear energy and that no outside force could deter it from its goal.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has spoken out against Iran's program, saying Iran "continues to defy" international demands by continuing its enrichment programs. Rice declared that it is "time for action" and suggested that the U.N. would take action when the Security Council reconvenes, although she did not state specifically what might be done. China, a permanent member of the Security Council along with the United States and a large importer of oil from Iran, have been urging diplomatic measures to reconcile the differences between the policies recommended by each side, in order to avoid escalation of tensions.

U.S. intelligence sources claim that Iran is "years" away from the ability to create nuclear weapons. The intelligence community insists that it has learned from mistakes made before the invasion of Iraq and that an estimate of several years to as long as a decade is an accurate time frame for Iranian development of a nuclear arsenal. Iran continues to insist that its nuclear program is a purely civil project to create electricity, but international authorities remain skeptical.

Violence Erupts During Nepal Government Curfew

After imposing a curfew in an attempt to subdue massive protests against King Gyanendra who seized power last year, the government of Nepal has resorted to violence, resulting in many injuries and at least four deaths. The curfew was intended to prevent a growing insurgency that includes communist rebels from doing further damage to the nation's infrastructure, but has spawned large protests over what are seen as despotic actions by King Gyanendra. Gyanendra, who has called for democratic elections, has been battling Maoist rebels in some of the smaller cities in Nepal for some time. The recent protests have included the nation's seven political parties as well as the communist insurgency and have occasionally bordered on rioting.

President George W. Bush and other top officials have stated their support for Rumsfeld, and some, including Gen. Richard Myers, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, criticized the retired Generals for damaging the credibility of the military. There are no indications that Rumsfeld will step down.

Despite an easing of restrictions and removal of the curfew last Thursday, protests and the violence associated with them have continued. Police beat several journalists protesting what they consider dangerous restrictions on their ability to report news, and many outlying cities are still in turmoil.

Retired Generals Call for Rumsfeld's Resignation

Another retired General joined the ranks of those calling for the removal of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld from his post. Maj. Gen. Charles Swannack said that he believes Rumsfeld carries "too much baggage" to be an effective leader. Former U.S. Central Command chief Anthony Zinni, former Army Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton, and retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Gregory Newbold and Retired Maj. Gen. John Batiste, who led the 1st Infantry Division in northern Iraq in 2004-2005, also have called for Rumsfeld to step down. These former military leaders believe that Rumsfeld interferes with Generals and does not allow them to do their jobs, and that his system of promoting senior officers does not elevate

ReNu Contact Solution Recalled from Risk of Fungal Eye Infection

Bausch & Lomb asks retailers to pull ReNu from shelves and consumers to suspend their use of the contact solution because of risk of a fungal eye infection that can cause blindness. Public health officials in 17 states are investigating 109 cases of Fusarium keratitis, a rare fungal infection that damages the cornea. Eight patients had to undergo corneal transplants. Inspections of factories and inspection facilities that produce and release ReNu have shown no evidence that the product is the cause of the problem, but 26 or 28 those infected reported using ReNu or a generic product also sold by Bausch & Lomb. The risk of fungal infection is also increased by sleeping with soft contacts in, although this was not a factor in most of the recently reported cases.

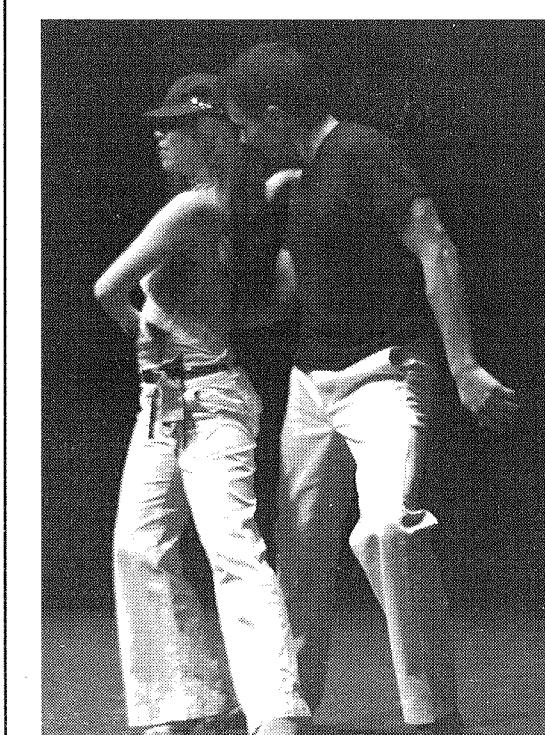
Danube at Highest in More Than a Century, Flooding Towns in Balkans

The Danube River, fed by unusually large amounts of snow melts and recent heavy rains has reached its highest point in the last 100 years, flooding many towns in Romania, Serbia and Bulgaria. The breaching of a dam in Romania has ease the floods somewhat, and officials claim there is no need for worry, but Bazias, Bechet and other towns in the area. The Romanian government plans to submerge approximately 90,000 hectares of farmland to relieve the flooding and 223,000 hectares in Serbia are already under water. The Balkan area is still recovering from massive floods last year that killed a large number of people and cost hundreds of thousands of euros in damage.

Compiled from CNN and Yahoo News.

BY: VIBHA LALJANI

Science joined hands with the arts last weekend, April 7 through April 9th, in Caltech's annual Dance Show. There was a myriad variety with more than 50 dances like the hula, the colorful



Two dancers show their moves.

Photo by Matthew Glassman

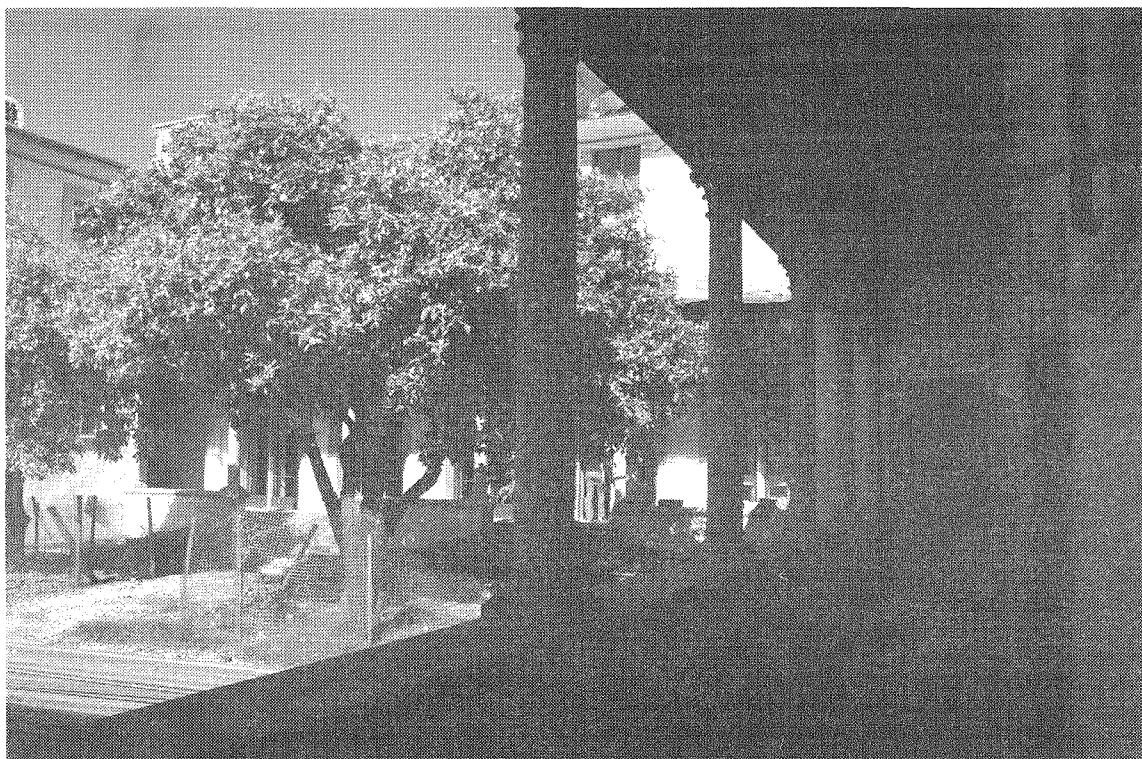
belly dance, the captivating chair dance, and the jazz. The Dance Show was held in Ramo Auditorium and received rave reviews from its audiences.

Much painstaking effort had gone into this show which filled the Ramo auditorium with music, color and creative art. Most groups had practiced for nearly three months. While three of the four organizers were new to organizing the dance show and faced some troubles from this, they nonetheless brought the dancers, technicians and audiences together and put forth a wonderful show.

While the dance show was just one great evening for the audiences, it was a wealth of opportunities for the dancers. Radhika Marathe from the Indian fusion dance group "Jalwa" said, "It was a great way of decompression and a means to pursue my hobby".

Another dancer felt that it was something relaxing, something different from her job and routine. Christine from "Feeling Good", and the chair said, "It helps self esteem. Most people feel that scientists don't have to communicate. However, communication is really important for us. This dance show gives us an opportunity to communicate with the people in our community by dance and words!"

There are several who believe that at a science and research institute like Caltech there is no place for arts. This dance show is one of the many instances that refute the above claim. When a dancer from Ceroc Revolution was asked by a Tech reporter if she thinks there should be more space for art at Caltech, she said, "There definitely should not be less. I have never had any trouble pursuing all my hobbies." Thus, while science and art may seem very distinct from each other, this annual Dance Show suggests that the two can have a mutually favorable relationship.



Fleming Courtyard's orange trees ripe with fruit

Changes in Store for South Houses With Photos from an Exclusive Tour

BY: ANNA HISZPANSKI

Nearly a third of the undergraduate population has lived in modular units for the past year awaiting the completion of the renovation of the South Houses. Constructed in 1931, they were in need of a total restoration for some time, and finally the project was lifted off the ground last year.

The Tech recently took a tour of the South Houses and sat down with Tim Chang, director of institute housing; Tom Mannion, assistant vice president of campus life; Margo Marshak, vice president of student affairs; and Brad Smith, project manager for the renovation, to separate truth from rumor about the project, its budget, the mid-year move, and future plans and to give students a sneak peak as to what to expect.

Features of the Restored South Houses

As may be expected with buildings constructed nearly eighty years ago, the South Houses were missing some modern amenities prior to the renovation and had become quite worn down. For example, plumbing and wiring were old, no rooms had air conditioning, lighting in the courtyards was poor, and tile and plaster were chipped and falling from a number of places. After the renovation, these problems and a number more will be fixed.

Now, each room will be outfitted with air conditioning, and students can control the temperature of their rooms individually. Previously, rooms only had heaters which were known to work marginally well.

However, these changes do not come without some compromise: much of the "hyperspace," empty spaces in the ceilings and walls, will be lost to air and plumbing pipes. In the past some students crawled in the hyperspace to secretly travel from room to room, but with the new additions, students may have to abandon this behavior.

"My hope is that if students do crawl through 'hyperspace,' they don't damage anything. If they do, it will be costly," said Chang. "If there is any damage at all, those students or the House damage funds will be billed. It is unfair to have Housing bear the cost of the student caused damage,

and the trustees feel that effective stewardship involved responsible parties acting responsibly."

"There's a number of student behaviors that may have to change," said Chang. "It's unfortunate, but it's something that has to be."

Another tradition which may have to be abandoned is writing on the walls. Prior to the renovation, random poems and statements could be found written on the walls of Blacker, Ricketts, and Dabney.

"The trustees don't like the look of graffiti," said Chang. "They don't mind a well-placed, tasteful mural, but they do mind random writing."

A number of murals were also lost to the renovation because of the re-piping. However, prior to construction, the IHC (Inter House Committee) met with architects and told them which murals were important and had to be preserved.

"The IHC has been involved since day one," said Marshak. "We also included students in selecting the architects and in all the early planning meetings."

Among the other new features of the South Houses will be an elevator from the first floor to the basement which will provide handicapped access for one ally in Ricketts.

Previously any wheelchair-bound student was forced to live in Ruddock House since it was the only one outfitted with pneumatic doors and widened doorways. With this new addition to the South Houses, students will have more options of where to live.

Bathrooms have also been altered to support wheelchair access. However, even with these new alterations the houses will not entirely support students with disabilities.

"We're not making the houses with full ADA [American Disabilities Act] features because it's not a requirement," said Chang. "It would be too costly, and we'd lose more bed spaces."

The renovated houses will also give students with allergies more housing options.

"Cats won't be allowed in the South Houses since we're trying to create a more allergy free space," said Chang.

Among the changes being made, new lighting will be added to the house courtyards, the dining room floors will be

replaced with cork, and the SAC [Student Activities Center] courtyard will have more seating, lighting, and a working fountain.

The ASCIT screening room had to be moved slightly from its former location but will still be in the SAC. One of four large room-sized air handlers for air conditioning will fill the previous space.

The tiles on the roof are being replaced, as well. However, in order to save costs, tiles will only be placed on those parts of the roof visible from the ground. In those areas not seen, a roll roofing product will be used.

Changes in the Renovation Budget

Not tiling the entire roof is one example of methods the project managers have used to try to reduce the cost of the project which is currently estimated to run over its budget.

"The initial approved budget by the Board of Trustees was approximately \$36.5 million," said Marshak. "The \$36 million is more than just the cost of the South Houses renovation. The money was also used to lease trailers, rehabilitate Chandler Dining Hall so that two houses at a time could eat there and to relocate all the SAC activities in the basement of the South Houses to temporary quarters."

"The hard and soft costs for



Temperature can be controlled in each individual room, at the expense of hyperspace.

only the South Houses are approximately \$30 million," said Smith.

However, an unanticipated asbestos problem has added to the project going over budget by \$2.5 million and has caused a delay in opening the houses which originally were slated to open at the start of the 2006-2007 academic year.

"We hired a company at the very beginning of the project to do an asbestos assessment," said Smith. "But the building was occupied at the time, and there was only so much they could do. They couldn't demo since the ceiling was a hard plaster and there weren't a lot of access points."

Once students moved out from the South Houses and construction workers broke into the walls and ceilings, they found that the six miles of piping in the South Houses were covered in asbestos. The asbestos, however, posed no threat to prior students who lived in the South Houses.

"The asbestos was all above in ceilings and in inaccessible areas as far as we could tell," said Smith. "It's a typical material we find in buildings all over campus. As long as it's not disturbed, it's fine."

The managers of the project even considered the option of leaving the asbestos in place or encapsulating it because removing it is so costly. However, the subcontractors on the project refused that option

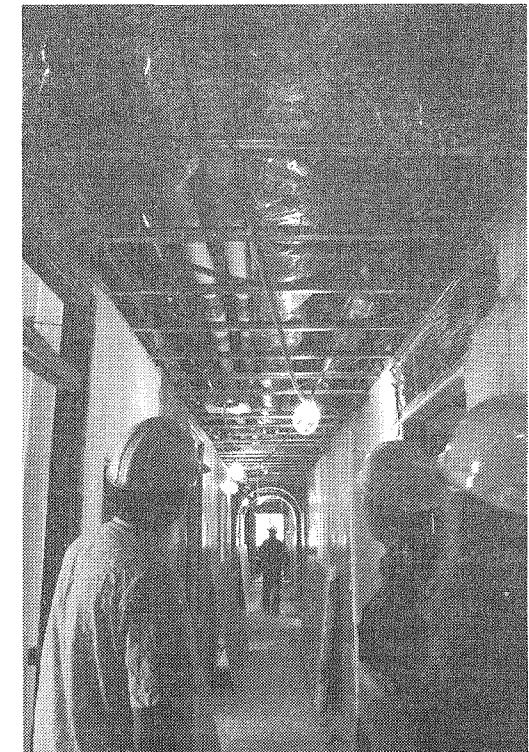
since working around the asbestos without disturbing it would be difficult due to the nature of the work and the location of the asbestos.

According to Smith, the restoration project is in some aspects a more complicated job than simply constructing a new building.

"The only unknown in new construction is that maybe there's something underground," said Smith. "When you're doing a rehabilitation of a historic building, there's always unknowns."

Plans for the Mid-Year Move

The South Houses were originally supposed to be reopened for the 2006-2007 academic year, but due to a delay in having students move out of the houses and the



New ducts and pipes



Murals in Dabney Lounge remain, for the most part, intact.

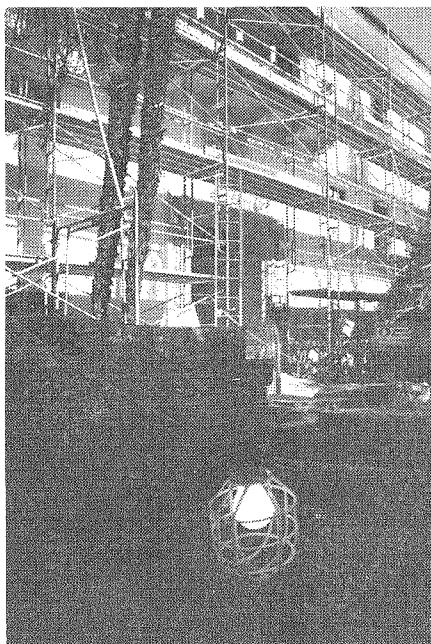


Photo by Matthew Glassman

The South Houses get a face-lift in addition to less visible improvements.

extensive asbestos removal, the date has been pushed back to December 15th, 2006.

"There's lots of flexibility as to when students can move from the mods to the South Houses," said Marshak. "That's the earliest date they may start moving, but students will not be kicked out of the mods then."

The trailers will be returned to the company from which Caltech has been renting them.

"We had hoped to keep them for a North House renovation project, but the money's not there right now so the trailers will be sent back," said Marshak.

As to how room picks will work, some decisions were recently made with the IHC (see the IHC Chairman's explanation this week).

As some students may re-

member when they first moved into the mods, the mods were not completely functioning. Lack of functioning bathrooms and internet connectivity frustrated early inhabitants. However, Housing is trying to avoid the same issues with the South Houses.

"We want a few student to test-live in the South Houses over Thanksgiving Break so that everything is working when all the students move in," said Mannion.

Future Plans

With their neighbors to the south having their homes redone, the North Houses have been curious as to when they may expect a renovation project for themselves.

Currently there are no immediate plans for an enhancement of the North Houses, but they will be reconstructed eventually as well, according to Margo Marshak.

"Ideally, when we rebuild the North Houses, we will build a forth house," said Marshak. "There are a lot of advantages to that. Primarily, we would be able to house more undergrads on campus."

The current concern now, however, is where to locate a number of student groups and activities which previously had a home in the SAC located in the basement of the South Houses. Due to the project being over budget, a large fraction of the rooms in the SAC will be left without flooring or lighting.

"The SAC will still exist except

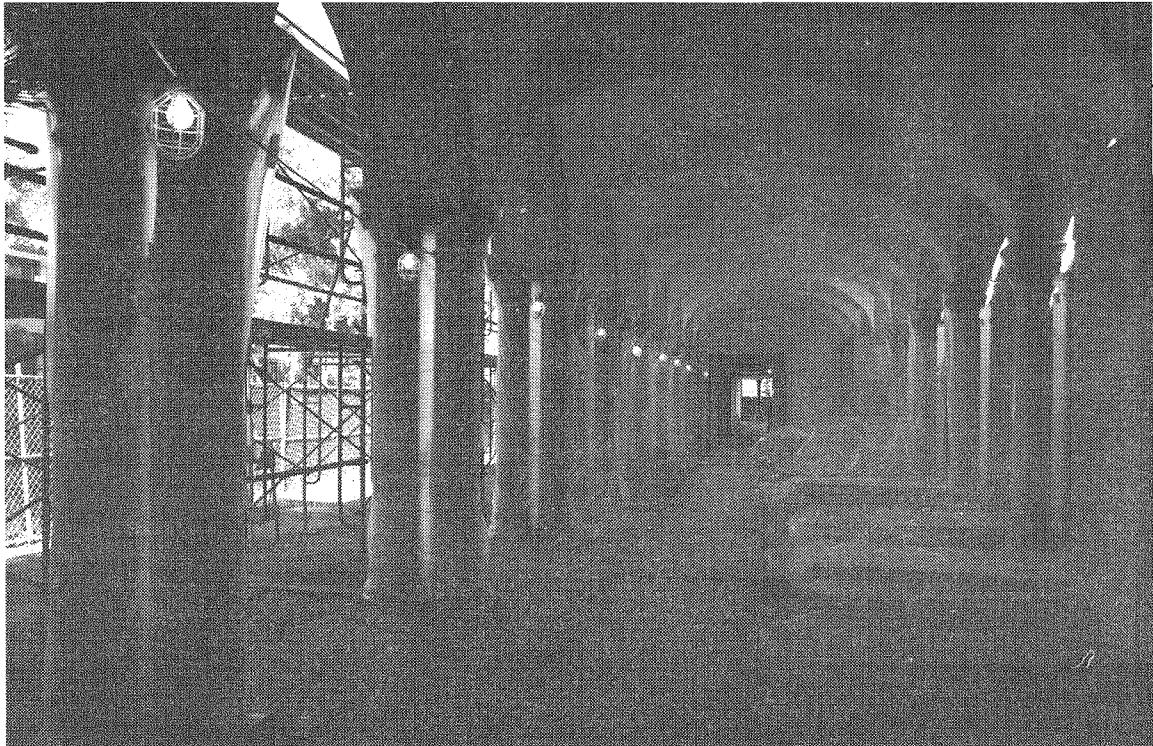


Photo by Matthew Glassman

Lining the walkway between Ricketts and Fleming, historic columns are wrapped for protection.

it will be unfinished," said Marshak. "Each house will have a library, storage and laundry rooms, and computer labs in the SAC, but [...] we won't be able to finish the rest of the area [...]. The music rooms won't be there anymore."

At this moment, the music rooms and the student Coffee House are not set to make a return to the South Houses and will remain in their current locations.

However, according to Tom Mannion, plans are being formulated to create a permanent home for these facilities. The new building will be designed with these student programs in mind.

"The new campus center will take a lot of the things taken out of the SAC," said Mannion. "The music faculty and program are to

be moved there, and there will also be a student movie theater."

Exactly when the plans will become formalized for the project is unclear.

"We're not sure when it will be started since we still don't have all the necessary funding," said Marshak.

"It's unlikely that freshmen will see it done unless it becomes a very high priority," agreed Mannion.

However, for the time being,

students may at least look forward to the South Houses being reopened soon.

Tours of the South Houses in the current state of renovation are being held every Thursday at 3:00pm for any members of the Caltech community. Those interested are asked to contact Tim Chang at timothy.chang@caltech.edu or (626) 395-6176 to reserve a place on the tour. Hard-soled, closed-toed shoes are required for the tour.



Photo by Matthew Glassman

Some murals had to be cut through in order to remove the asbestos from behind the walls.

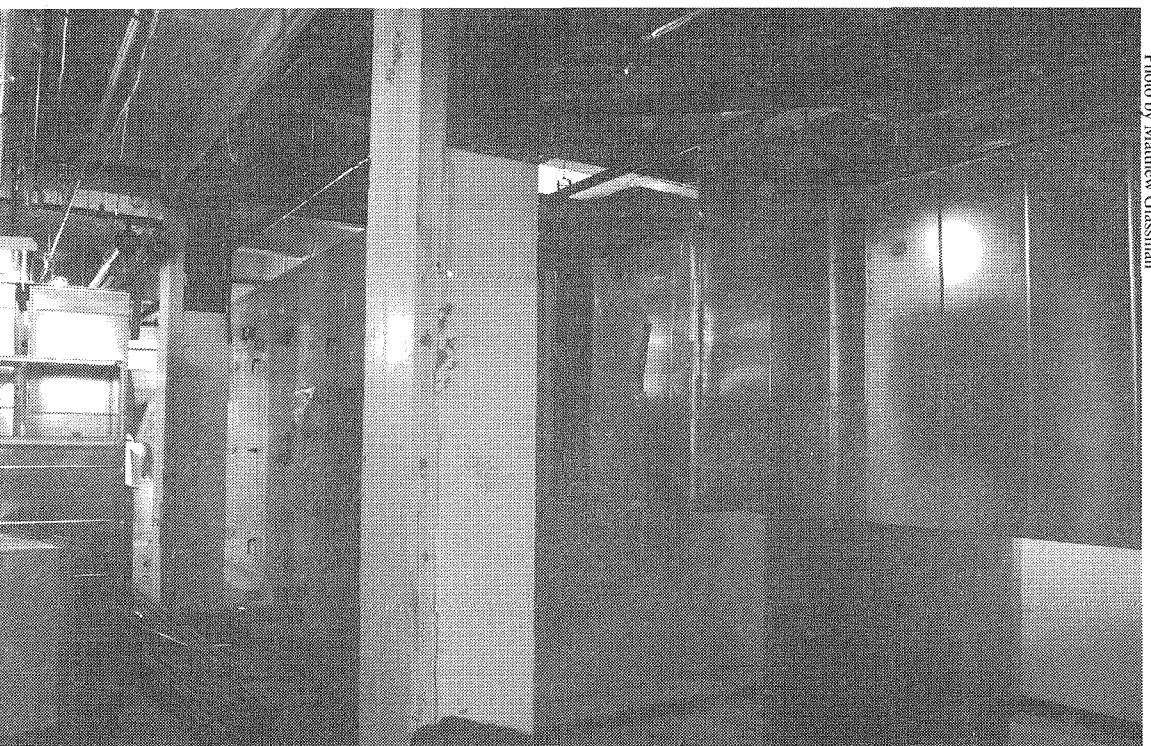


Photo by Matthew Glassman

A central AC unit, a major expense of the renovation, fills part of the ASCIT screening room.

Housing Procedure Explained

BY: CRAIG MONTUORI

The Housing Office and the IHC have been working over the past week to iron out the details of moving out of the mods and back into the South Houses. Some of the details are going to affect the House picks and off-campus lottery picks going on over the next few weeks. As always, you will be guaranteed a place to live by Housing, if you've followed the lottery rules and deadlines. However, the difference in spaces between the mods (and extra on-campus, affiliated housing spaces) and the South Houses create a tricky situation for the transition at the end of first term.

First of all, all spaces in the South Houses will be matched by "On-Campus" spots across campus for first term; these include spaces in the mods, Braun House, affiliated apartments in 150 S. Chester and 1170 Del Mar, four additional houses, 242, 504, 546, and 566, all on Catalina Avenue, and an apartment at 241 S. Wilson.

To break the spaces down by House: Blacker has 67 spots made up by 48 spaces in the mods, 6 spaces from two triples in 150 S. Chester, and 10 spaces in 505 S. Wilson (3 people with guaranteed South House picks will be studying abroad during first term). Dabney has 67 spots made up by 48 spaces in the mods, 10 spaces in 504 S. Catalina, and 9 spaces in 216 S. Chester. Fleming has 79 spaces made up by 48 spaces in the mods, 10 spaces in 566 S. Catalina, 11 spaces in 546 S. Catalina, and 10 spaces in Braun. Ricketts has 71 spaces made up by 48 spaces in the mods, 5 spaces in 242 S. Catalina, 4 spaces in 241 S. Wilson, 4 spaces from an 1170 Del Mar quad, and 10 spaces from Braun.

All of these spaces will transition directly into the South Houses at the end of first term. If you pick into one of these spaces when your house does picks,

then you will be guaranteed a bed in the South Houses, when they reopen. This way, we hope to avoid the confusion of bringing on campus additional people from unaffiliated spots. Doing so could possibly cause unbalanced numbers of people in apartments, which Housing is obligated to fill, not necessarily in a convenient fashion for the students involved. Hopefully, there will be a nearly one-to-one move from on-campus designated spots to the South Houses at the end of first term.

Secondly, the decision to change (reduce) the occupancy levels in Chester and Del Mar apartments as described in the Off-Campus Housing Lottery pamphlet will be left up to each individual apartment at the end of first term. The cost of each apartment will be spread between however many people choose to live in it.

In addition, the IHC will be selecting a group of students to test out the utilities between the November break and the end of first term. We would like to try to iron out all the difficulties before students move back in. Utility tests will include: water pressure, air conditioning, internet ports, and so on. These students will be selected during first term. Hopefully, many of the difficulties noted in moving into the mods can be avoided through these tests.

This situation was caused by the delays in the renovation of the South Houses; however apologies are necessary for leaving these decisions up to a few short days before Houses have their picks occur. Furthermore, this was the best solution the IHC Chair, IHC Secretary, House Picks Officers (Secretaries, mostly, and Ricketts VP), and Housing Office could come up with. If you have any suggestions, we all would enjoy hearing from you, though like most decisions that have been made public here, time is indeed short to change anything. Complaints, as always, should go to the IHC Chair.

The Top Ten Pranks of Caltech History

BY: CHANDRA BARNETT

Honourable mention:
The Great Traffic Light Caper (unverified)

A prank whose actual occurrence can't be verified, but whose elegant simplicity is top-notch.

Anyone who uses the gymnasium is aware of the very brief street-crossing period allowed by the California traffic signal. In days gone by, the destination on the other side of the street was (and is again!) a large number of parking spaces used by 9-5 employees. Twice a day, huge crowds of people were vastly inconvenienced by the stinginess of the traffic light. The time was ripe for some ingenuity, and somebody (once again, under cover of darkness) liberated a cherrypicker from somewhere or other, and simply swapped the red and green lenses on the traffic light.

10. Toilets at Dawn

In an apparent comment on the quality of Chandler food, a 1999 group of grad students slyly replaced every single seat in the outdoor Chandler seating area with a repurposed toilet. Thanks to the intervention of the Pasadena Department of Health, they were gone by the afternoon, but the visual effect was frankly stunning.

9. Piano Protection Racket

Driven to the breaking point by the incessant tinkling of pianos in the South Hovses, some nameless individuals hatched a cunning plan: "Let's take their pianos



The #10 prank: Toilets at Dawn (1999)

away." In proper Tech fashion, this went rapidly from idle nonsense to the actual sequential disappearance of three of the four South Hovse pianos. Techers and administrators searched, but never found them – after all, why look somewhere where the pianos can't possibly be? Of course no one could fit three pianos into a single!

One South Hovse piano and the one at the Athenaeum remained, and in due course the relevant parties received typed missives, informing them that if they would like THEIR pianos to stay put, they would do well to leave \$10 in a certain book in the library. But this crossed the line, and in the ensuing uproar the perpetrators thought it would be best to send the pianos home. Notes were sent to the pianoless Hovses, to be read at the same time of evening, which directed them to the pianoful single. As the stinger on a well-executed prank, the resulting crush of people around the single made it quite impractical to move any pianos.

8. The Wayward Bed

It's common enough currency around here to take off with a frosh's door or bed, leaving it someplace untoward for the frosh to go retrieve it from. Less common by far are the circumstances that occurred when a frosh unwittingly relocated his OWN furniture. It seems a few high-spirited Hovse residents had been informed that the guy in question would be away at Glee Club practice, giving them ample time to carry off his bed and install it in the top of what was then the Beckman Auditorium construction site. However, midway through the stylish abduction, who should appear but the mark himself, back from a cancelled rehearsal? But this is where the quick-wittedness of Techers comes into play: "Hey so-and-so! Guess what we're going to do with your neighbor's bed!" Much to everyone's delight, so-and-so threw himself wholeheartedly into the endeavor, and wound up supervising the whole operation.

7. The Wandering F-84

In an effort to attract the nation's best and brightest, the Air Force once decided it would be a good idea to park an F-84 fighter jet (sans wings) on a trailer in the middle of the Olive Walk. Enter the Techers... who borrowed a tractor and took the aircraft on a midnight joyride through Pasadena, before thoughtfully "returning" it to the lawn of the local AFROTC Colonel.



The #2 prank: The Hollywood Centennial Sign (1987)

reer: "Where is my bed? Where is my dresser?"

The car, later dubbed "Napoleon Blownapart," was featured in many other campus capers until its eventual noble sacrifice in the WWII scrap metal drives.

4. Professor Apostol's Time Warp and Other Classroom Disruptions

Although Techers take academics more seriously than most other areas of life, when it comes to pranks, nothing is sacred. Prof. Tom Apostol was a victim on more than one occasion, but the standout prank here is the week that someone sped up his clock. Prof. Apostol had at the time been the lecturer in Ma2c for many years, and gave his lectures by heart. Pacing himself by the rear wall clock in the lecture hall, he delivered a set amount of material every day, ending precisely at 10 minutes before the hour. So when someone started adjusting the line frequency of the power being supplied to the clock...

Other such shenanigans have included the subversion of some motor-controlled blackboards in Noyes 153 and the perennial reversing of all of the seats in Gates 22.

3. McDonalds Contest

If you've ever entered any sort of consumer sweepstakes, you'll be familiar with language of the form, "Limit one entry per person per visit." This enterprise, immortalized in "Real Genius," is the likely cause. In 1975, McDonald's offered a sweepstakes to its customers, using what at the time was a standard entry criter-

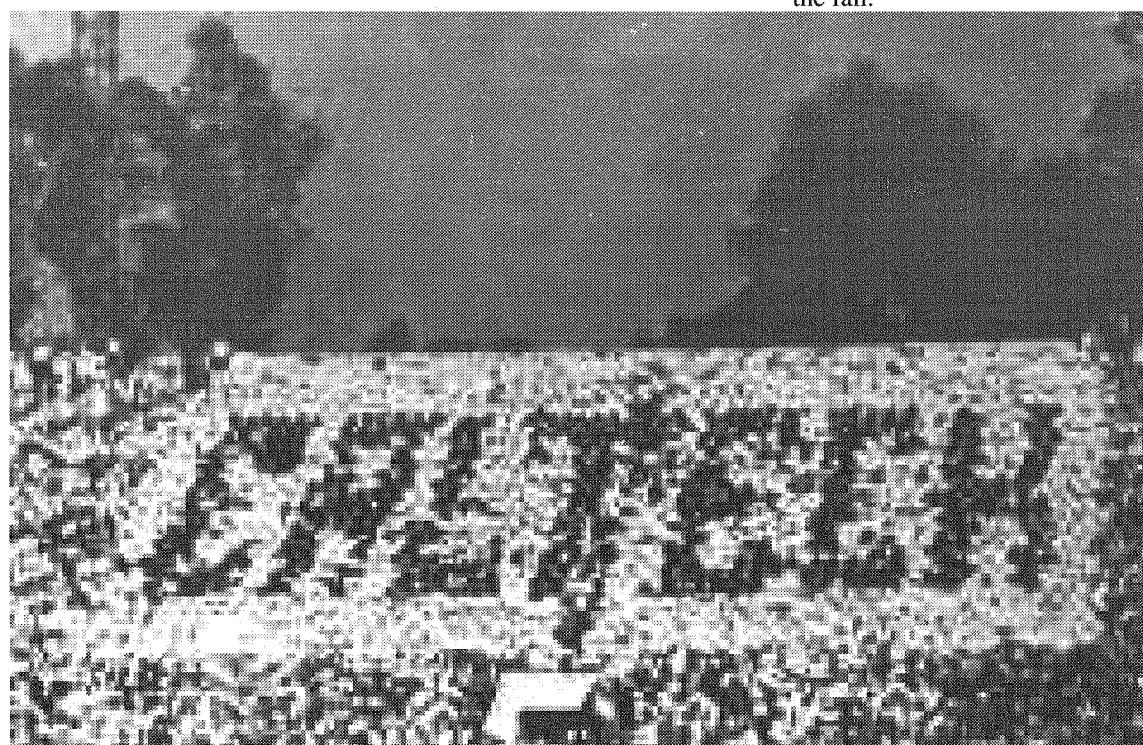
ion: each entry must consist of an individual's name and address, printed legibly on a 3"x5" card. Students wrote a program which generated entry forms using Caltech's brand-new line printer, and ended up claiming a substantial number of the prizes – and forever altering the way in which sweepstakes were conducted.

2. Hollywood Centennial Sign

On May 18th, 1987, Hollywood with its customary fanfare celebrated its 100th anniversary. Hoping to contribute to the celebration, Techers conceived a plot to leave their mark on one of Hollywood's most enduring symbols: the hillside "HOLLYWOOD" sign in Griffith Park. Some clever individual quickly discovered that the Cs in Caltech could be aligned with the Os in Hollywood, and that in this configuration one of the Ls could also be retained, leaving only minor modifications to be made to the other letters, so on the night of the 17th, a small army of Caltech students scaled the hill with an arsenal of rope and heavy black and white plastic. Working in small teams, by morning they had successfully amended the text. Unfortunately, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce would not admit to having been amused.

In 1984 the prank was updated to take advantage of the Rose Bowl's electronic scoreboard. Students built a wireless override device which they installed on the data cable running into the scoreboard, and used it to display their own graphics and animations on game day. Starting with simple sentiments such as "DEI" and "Go CIT", the high-tech graffiti culminated in the famous scoreboard legend "Caltech 38, MIT 9", set off stylishly with twin pixelated beavers.

A third attempt, made in the late 1980s, did not succeed. In accordance with rotation rules, all names and Hovse affiliations are replaced. Prank information and a few titles that were too good not to use are courtesy of the "Legends of Caltech" series, the first two volumes of which can be had in the Caltech Bookstore. The third expects to see publication in the fall.



The #1 prank: The Great Rose Bowl Hoax (1961)

Cannon Returns for Prefrosh

Continued from page 1
students literally minutes before they rushed the cannon.

"MIT was impressed," Mannion said from what he felt there. "They were surprised by the fact that we showed up, and quickly. That was the key for Fleming and Caltech—to get the cannon back fast."

This was the pressure that Jordan was balancing in the hours that preceded the decision to fly two dozen of his housemates 3,000 miles across the country.

"I don't know how many people realize that letting [the cannon] get shipped back to us was not an option," said Jordan in response to the suggestion that the trip was a waste. While Fleming had its own stake in the cannon's quick retrieval, "from Caltech's standpoint, it was a little embarrassing that MIT had it there in the first place," Jordan argued.

"We don't expect Fleming traditions and memorabilia to be important to other students," Jordan added, "but we would hope that they can respect that these things are important to us."

Another concern for returning the symbol quickly was Prefrosh Weekend, which occurs at the end of this week. Even if MIT wanted to return it, there is no evidence that they were pressured to get it back in time for the event. "They would have had to ship it out a day or so after we picked it up. I doubt it would have been back here for the Prefrosh," Jordan reasoned.

Now that it is on its way, it is slated to arrive just before the newly admitted students do, most likely sometime Wednesday.

"I think the prefrosh will be impressed by [the cannon be-

ing back]," thought sophomore Brandt Belson. "They'll like the idea of pranks going on and the rivalry with MIT."

Up until recently, the concern with funding the adventure has been a very real problem facing Fleming, particularly since students charged the plane tickets to their personal accounts. Just last week, President Baltimore agreed to cover the remaining costs of the trip that could not be earned through fundraising.

"We knew that this was risky. If anything, we wanted to do this and were willing to accept the possibility that we wouldn't be able to raise any money at all," said Jordan. "We didn't go into this expecting administration to bail us out. Still, we are very appreciative of the gift."

Over the past week, alumni have pledged over \$3,000 to pay for the cost of recovering the cannon.

As a consequence of the scale of the prank/counter-prank activity, Caltech has received national attention from a variety of media sources. Mannion himself has been interviewed by dozens of newsgroups. Interest was so intense that he had to answer his phone nearly every twenty minutes instead of sleeping during his last few hours in Boston.

This developing relationship between Caltech and MIT poses interesting challenges to students from the schools to be both innovative and safe in the interests of a friendly rivalry. Both campuses are planning their next big pranks, and everyone is expecting exciting things in the future.

To see pictures and read more about the recovery of the cannon, visit www.flemingcannon.com.

Prank o' the Week

Caltech Laboratory Animals Discover Secret to Life, the Universe, and Everything

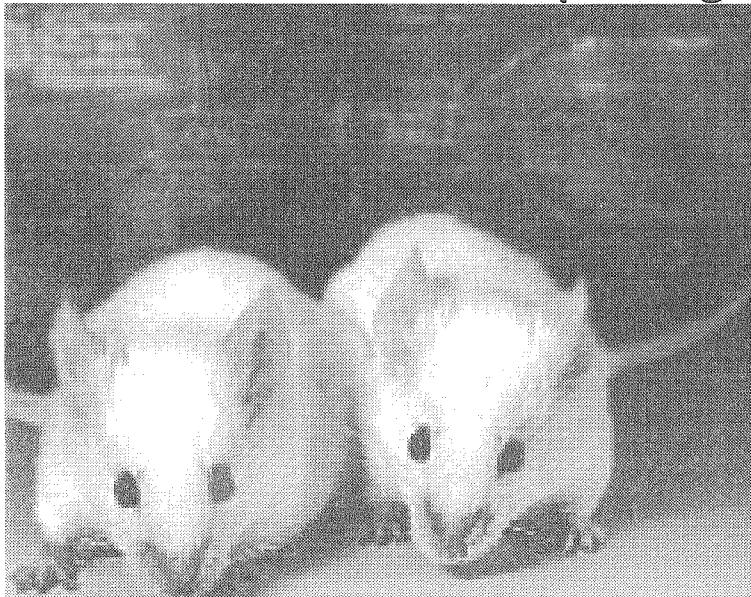
BY: MASON PORTER

Continuing my recent, personal April Fools Day prank tradition, I recruit an insider from Caltech's PR department so that a "press release" would appear on Caltech's website 4/1/06. There has been some circulation among appropriate Nobel Laureates, but none of their reactions has made it back my way. Here is the information about the new "discovery" that Caltech recently reported:

Taking the campus completely by surprise, physicists at the California Institute of Technology announced today that a pair of white mice from one of the biology laboratories has discovered the secret to life, the universe, and everything. In a sudden epiphany, they also announced a reorganization of the department's research groups, with the elimination of the elementary particle physics group as its primary goal.

Known only as "Boris" and "Natasha," Caltech's rodent prodigies said they were inspired last December by the second problem on the Physics 1a final. The solution to the previously unsolved problem implied their Grand Unified Theory.

According to Natasha, "Followers of late author Douglas Adams's teachings believed that 42 was the answer to the question of life, the universe, and everything, but that's really only true in appropriate units--basically, one needs to measure everything so that the speed of light, Planck's constant, 2, and pi are all unity. Then one has to apply the miracle operator



twice. (A few of the Phys 1 students actually figured out this last part on their exam solutions.)"

Added Boris, "The really hard part was deriving from first principles the question that goes with the answer. Many years of hard work by experimental and theoretical physicists have left hardly any clues, so we kind of had to start from scratch on this one. After a few months of knocking our brains together and listening to new wave music, we managed to figure out that the question is 'Does your chewing gum lose its flavor on the bedpost overnight?' It's pretty trivial, actually."

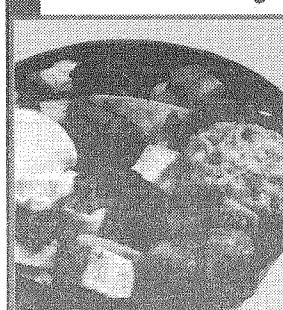
Through a spokesperson, Boris and Natasha released the following statement about their prospects of winning Nobel Prizes: "We don't go to bed thinking about it or anything, but it would

be nice. After all, it ties the theory together. Besides, who can refuse a free trip to Europe?"

Asked what would be done with the money liberated by reorganizing the physics department, an anonymous member of the faculty said, "I'm not entirely sure at the moment, but my preliminary thinking is that we should increase the salaries of the postdoctoral scholars in our condensed matter group." Speculation around campus is that the displaced physicists could start working on problems in biology or perhaps become extras on Numb3rs.

No other members of Caltech's physics faculty responded to interview requests, but an excited exclamation of "Hawking owes me two dollars for this one!" was overheard in Lauritsen.

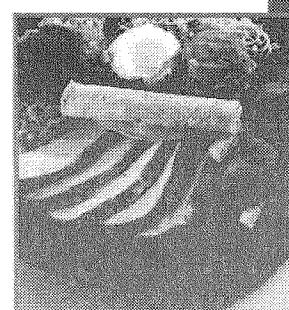
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Prefrosh Dinner Schedule

Note: this is not the final list. The finalized lists will be in the prefrosh folders and posted in the houses.

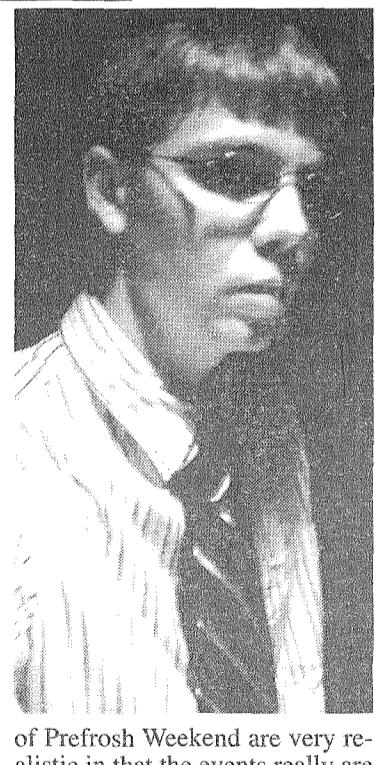
Last	First	Thu.	Fri.	Kiner	Jeff	Av	Da	Suffoletta	Paul	Pa	Ri
Albaugh	Tyler	Ru	Fl	Ko	Albert	Av	Pa	Sun	Andrew	Av	Pa
Almasco	Dannah	Ru	Pa	Kornblith	Simon	Ll	B1	Swaneberg	Irene	Da	Ru
Antognini	Joe	Da	Bl	Kostandova	Natalya	Fl	Ri	Szalay	Tamas	Ri	Av
Atmore	Kyle	Ru	Bl	Kratz	Dave	Av	B1	Tan	Geng	Av	Ru
Baidin	Vadim	Da	Av	Kuan	Jeff	Ru	B1	Thakoor	Kavi	Da	Av
Bennie	Mike	Da	Bl	Kurdyumov	Ruslan	Ri	Ru	Ton	Michelle	Pa	Av
Bhanderi	Swati	Ru	Fl	Kuznetsov	Gleb	Ll	Av	Tong	Leslie	Ll	Ri
Brainerd	Andrew	Ri	Bl	Lam	Amy	Av	Ru	Tria	Pierce	Pa	Bl
Bramston-Cook		Pa	Ll	Lam	Hailey	Av	Ri	Tsay	Grace	Ri	Pa
Britto	Nevin	Ru	Da	Lebar	Justin	Ri	Ll	Valdes	Ambie	Bl	Ll
Cao	Andy	Ll	Bl	Lecoanet	Daniel	Av	B1	Valdez	Carolyn	Fl	Bl
Chan	Warren	Av	Ru	Lee	David	Av	Ll	Volkoff	Tyler	Pa	Ri
Chang	Stephanie	Ru	Fl	Lester	Brian	B1	Pa	Wage	Nick	Av	Fl
Chao	Issac	Pa	Ll	Leszczynski	Philip	Ll	Av	Walker	David	Ll	Pa
Chen	Jeddy	Av	Da	Li	Lidang	Fl	Ll	Wang	Albert	Av	Bl
Chen	Lu	Av	Fl	Liang	Patrick	Ll	B1	Wang	Alice	Av	Pa
Chen	Xi	Av	Fl	Liao	Warren	B1	Ru	Wang	Perry	Pa	Ri
Chen	Edward	Ll	Pa	Lin	Ben	Ru	Ll	Webb	Renaldo	Ru	Av
Chen	Tao	Pa	Bl	Link	Cordelia	Ri	Pa	Widgren	Heather	Fl	Bl
Cherney	Alan	Av	Bl	Liu	Christopher	Av	Fl	Wilke	Stephen	Bl	Av
Chock	Chris	Ru	Da	Liu	Leon	Av	Ri	Wilkowski	Aaron	Bl	Ru
Chong	Anthony	Ru	Pa	Maatta	Sara	Ll	Fl	Wokciechowski	Piotr	Ru	Pa
Chou	Evelyn	Fl	Bl	Makuluni	Tamvana	Ll	Av	Wong	Edmond	Bl	Pa
Chuang	Frank	Ri	Ru	Malz	Aliza	Ll	Da	Woodin	Christine	Pa	Ru
Cochran	Jack	Bl	Av	Martin	Harold	Av	Ll	Wu	Yi	Ll	Fl
Coleman	Daryl	Ru	Ll	Matuschak	Andy	Ll	Da	Xu	George	Av	Ru
Compean	Christopher	Da	Av	Maurer	Matthew	B1	Ll	Yang	Le	Bl	Ll
Dama	James	Da	Fl	McCarter	Joe	Fl	Av	Yeh	Christine	Da	Ll
Deng	Alan	Ri	Bl	McEntee	Connor	Av	Ll	Yeh	Oliver	Fl	Av
Denicola	Domenic	Da	Ri	McMillan	Ben	B1	Av	Yen	Andy	Ru	Ri
Dewan	Chris	Fl	Ll	Mintun	Eric	Av	Ll	Yeung	Serena	Bl	Ri
Dias	Fabian	Pa	Av	Mishra	Ankita	Fl	Av	Yu	Brian	Bl	Da
Dou	Diana	Pa	Ll	Morley	Caroline	Ll	Av				
Dreschler	Andrew	Ri	Ll	Mostowy	Walter	Da	Pa				
Einav	Jonathan	Ru	Bl	Mukelyan	Hamik	Ru	Av				
Evans	Laura	Av	Ru	Ng	Justin	Pa	Fl				
Fang	Joe	Fl	Ru	Nguyen	Long	Fl	Pa				
Forshaw	Larry	Av	Pa	Nikolaus	Joel	Ll	Fl				
Franks	Riley	Fl	Av	Norris	Noelle	Ru	Pa				
Freddo	Andrew	Fl	Da	Ojeda	Alejandro	Ri	Fl				
Ganapati	Vidya	Bl	Ri	Paolini	Robbie	Fl	Av				
Gawlik	Evan	Av	Da	Parikh	Ravi	Fl	Ru				
Go	Brian	Bl	Fl	Paryani	Jason	Ru	Da				
Gonzales	Xavier	Bl	Fl	Patel	Hetul	Av	Ll				
Gould	Julianne	Av	Fl	Petykiewicz	Jan	Fl	Ll				
Graves	Michael	Ri	Da	Plummer	Diane	Pa	Da				
Grinstead	Marshall	Av	Da	Qiu	Kai	Bl	Pa				
Grogan	Gillian	Bl	Da	Rajagopal	Apoorva	Pa	Av				
Guled	Hassan	Da	Bl	Rath	John	Av	Da				
Gunn	Kathryn	Ri	Av	Reshetnikov	Nick	Ll	Da				
Gupta	Manaswi	Da	Ll	Roeber	Elinore	Ll	Ru				
Hazi	Oren	Da	Ru	Rosa	Nick	Pa	Bl				
Hebbale	Swaroop	Ri	Av	Russell	Rebecca	Ll	Av				
Hensley	Brandon	Ll	Ru	Ryu	Ernest	Ri	Pa				
Herreshoff	Marcello	Da	Ll	Scacco	Andy	Ll	Ru				
Hong	Annie	Ll	Pa	Schaeffer	Erik	Pa	Av				
Huang	Fan	Av	Ri	Schaffert	Paul	Fl	Pa				
Huang	Dan	Ll	Ri	Schantz	Jarred	Pa	Ru				
Huang	Li	Ru	Av	Schlansker	Steven	Ru	Av				
Hunt	Sarah	Ru	Ll	Schmerling	Edward	Ru	Av				
Hutchins	Joshua	Ru	Av	Schulman	John	Pa	Av				
Hwang	Kevin	Da	Ri	Scott	Kim	Pa	Av				
Im	Jennifer	Av	Ri	Shakman	Katie	Da	Pa				
Jin	Shee	Ri	Ru	Shender	Dinah	Da	Av				
Johnson	Greg	Av	Pa	Shiu	Phil	Pa	Ru				
Johnson	Jonathan	Da	Av	Sideris	Costis	Pa	Fl				
Kandasamy	Ram	Fl	Ri	Singer	Ted	Da	Ru				
Karl	Robert	Pa	Da	Smith	Michael	Av	Fl				
Kassof	Brett	Pa	Ru	Solomon	Adam	Bl	Fl				
Kasturia	Shirin	Ri	Av	Song	Da	Bl	Av				
Kay	Michael	Av	Pa	Sotto	David	Bl	Ru				
Kim	John	Av	Ru	Souganidis	Ellie	Fl	Pa				
Kim	Phillip	Bl	Av	Stamp	Dave	Ru	Ri				
Kim	Heejae	Ri	Da	Stevens	Thomas	Pa	Da				

Todd's Paperside Chat

Welcome Prefrosh,
As the president of the Associated Students of Caltech I would like to welcome you to our unique little school. To many Caltech students my official role is to provide donuts every so often. You'll soon have a chance to experience the amazing phenomena that is Midnight Donuts, but first I would like to share a few of my thoughts about Caltech if only to support the illusion that my responsibilities extend beyond donuts.

As you hopefully have heard by now, Caltech is hard. If you choose to attend, you should expect to be challenged to the point that you may question your own ability. I recognize that this is not a very encouraging thing to be told, but I do not wish to sugarcoat. All admitted students are smart enough to complete the coursework, but without a real passion for math and science it can be difficult to find the motivation to put in the required effort. Luckily, Caltech's saving grace is that everyone is going through the same struggle together. I feel that this collective fight against the coursework combined with the House culture creates a nice sense of camaraderie amongst the undergraduates that helps students get through the work and have a little fun in the process.

When I attended Prefrosh Weekend a few years ago I was prepared to find a school with difficult academics, so I was confused when I found the weekend to be extremely fun. I became suspicious that the weekend was not actually an accurate representation of the school. As you'll surely notice, there are some very superficial-looking events. I think that an upperclassman accurately described the situation to me a few years ago. He suggested that the Prefrosh Weekend experience is fake in that there is no other time when so many fun events are packed into such a compact period of time. However, the events



of Prefrosh Weekend are very realistic in that the events really are things Caltech students do for fun throughout the course of the year.

It is likely that you will meet people this weekend who hold a very different opinion than my own about Prefrosh Weekend and about Caltech in general. You will find upperclassmen who have become slightly bitter about their workload. It is important for you to talk to these people and hear them out, but it's also important for you to know that there are many people at Caltech who wouldn't rather be anywhere else. If you really love math and science then this is an amazing place to be. The combination of challenging classes, brilliant peers, and quirky social lives is very refreshing for most Caltech students. I couldn't imagine myself at any other school, but I encourage you to check out the school for yourself this weekend. Be sure to have a little fun in the process.

Todd Gingrich

BY: CRAIG MONTUORI
IHC CHAIRMAN

Those of you that have brought your high school (or college-level, for that matter) homework to do over the next few days, for the love of jeebus either burn it, douse it in gasoline and burn it, rip it into tiny pieces and burn it, or... well, you get the picture.

What we ask of you during this weekend is to kick back and enjoy this fine SoCal clime (watch, as Mother Nature mocks me by raining sometime during this week), especially while we laugh at you behind your backs.

You see, this school, while a fine place in its own right, can't help but try to show off for you prospective students. We see this and enjoy the school's offerings of free food, while mocking the falsity of the image presented to you and showing off for you in our own right.

Hopefully, you can see through this image; if not, it will be pointed out to you numerous times during the weekend (odd name for a Thursday afternoon through Saturday morning, but whaddaya gonna do?).

That said, welcome to Caltech for Prefrosh Weekend; we are a school of wealth and taste.

You will have the opportunity to check out the classes here, see what goes on during the end of the week in some of the Houses here, and see a giant gathering of many of the clubs you will have a chance to participate in at Caltech. I'm here, as the Inter-House Committee (IHC) Chair, to explain the House system and to give some perspective on your short glimpse of these fine Houses.

Let me note that quite quickly, you'll be hearing the phrases "In my opinion..." and "In the

past..." and you'll be hearing them a lot.

You see, we hold ourselves to strict rules to try to make sure that you are unbiased until you enter a House here. The IHC exists partially to see that students hold to these rules while you are here; in addition, it mediates between the Houses and helps to represent student interests.

However, during prefrosh weekend, while we hope that you are interested in the stories that Houses will share with you, we also hope that you consider the House System as a whole. Hopefully, you will leave here with an understanding of how it sets us apart from other schools and why we consider it so important to this school's environment.

While you're here, each House will be showing off for you, both as individual Houses and as representatives of the entire Housing system. Keep in mind that you will be welcome nearly anywhere at nearly anytime during this weekend. If anything makes you feel uncomfortable, offended, or just confused, feel free to ask anyone, but specifically ask for the House's prefrosh rep. This person, or group of people, volunteered to help you get the most out of this weekend. Also, feel free to spend time at any other undergraduate House during your time here, since you are not bound to the House you were assigned to other than to give you a place to keep your things and sleep at night.

Not every person meshes well with either the House they will be rooming in for two nights or the House they will be eating dinner in on Friday night. However, we do ask that you give both of these Houses a chance. Chin up, though, for you may find that you enjoy throwing rolls at dinner or

any number of House eccentricities that you may discover during your time here.

Also remember that should you choose to come here, you will have the choice to decide between Houses, and the House which you spent prefrosh weekend in doesn't have to be one of the Houses you would be willing to live in. Pretty much, we hope you will keep an open mind, but we will respect your wishes and help you out if you think you will be miserable or uncomfortable in a certain place.

Though like everything in the world, the House System has its flaws, yet we feel that it is the best chance for students to grow to become well-rounded, social, yet still academically-intense individuals. The House System is an excellent counterpoint to the intensive workload here, as dinners give students a chance to relax and unwind after a long day.

Many Houses put an emphasis on making sure frosh sometimes take a break from working and studying all the time to interact with each other and the rest of the House. We take care of each other through academic and social troubles and are stronger together as a result. We like to make sure that the members of our House are striking a healthy balance between work and fun, as we all know what happens when someone has all work and no play.

Caltech is about providing students with opportunities, both academic and social. If you keep that in mind while visiting, I think you will see our House System in the appropriate light. You are our guests for the weekend, so please allow us to treat you to an enjoyable weekend.



In 1927, Werner Heisenberg wrote in his uncertainty paper that "The more precisely the position is determined, the less precisely the momentum is known in this instant, and vice versa." This paper laid the foundation for the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle which states that one cannot assign, with full precision, values for certain pairs of observable variables, including the position and momentum, of a single elementary particle at the same time even in theory.

After you make it through your Freshman year and hit second year Physics, this theory will become a part of the everyday pain or joy you feel in Quantum Mechanics. But the reason I bring it up now is because I think it addresses the decision each of you is making in the next month - Should I attend Caltech next fall?

I graduated from Caltech ten years ago this June, and as a member of the Caltech Alumni Association Board of Directors and an Undergraduate Admissions Support Area

Welcome, Prefrosh!

BY: JEAN SUN
CHAIR, BOARD OF CONTROL

You're presumably here on campus and browsing through this newspaper to learn something about Caltech—what the perks are, the drawbacks, what the undergraduate culture is like and, most importantly, what makes Caltech stand out above its peer institutions. Now, I could go on all day extolling the virtues of the Honor Code, which to me neatly sums up everything that makes Caltech special (or "special"), but I don't think a column of exuberant, sugar-coated praise is what you're looking for. The Honor Code is meant to promote honesty and trust, so in the interest of practicing the values that I preach, I'm going to give this to you straight.

Caltech's Honor Code consists of a single line. It states: "No member of the Caltech community shall take unfair advantage of any other member of the community." Explicitly, this means that no undergraduate, graduate, postdoc, faculty, staff, or administrator should attempt to gain an advantage over one another by unfairly taking work product, creating an opportunity for themselves that is not available to their peers, or promoting themselves through unfair means such as cheating, stealing, lying, and the like.

This is the Honor Code as constrained by its letter, or its statement of "unfair advantage." Implicitly, the Honor Code is much more straightforward. What it is actually trying to say is "all members of the Caltech community shall act with respect, integrity, and trust in all their endeavors." In other words, the sense of "honor" that Caltech is trying to promote is the sense of simply being a good person; of doing what you feel is right.

So there's the theory. And if there's one thing you learn from being in academia it's that almost everything sounds good in theory if you fuss over it for long enough. So what about the practice? What does the Honor Code actually mean for the students?

Firstly, the Honor Code is a real part of our lives. It is not a wishy-washy statement of what Caltech could be; it's a statement of what we already are.

The vast majority of exams are take-home. All exams are unproctored. We can get keys to access buildings containing sensitive and expensive lab equipment at any time of day (or night). We don't have late fees for library books. When we tell a professor that we contracted rabies and accidentally bit our thumbs off and couldn't pick up the soldering iron to finish our physics lab, the professor will take it on faith and give us an extension.

Most schools start off by assuming that you are a clean slate, that you can't be trusted because you have no merit, and you can't be condemned because you haven't done anything wrong yet. They put

measures in place to make sure there's no temptation for dishonesty (for instance, they'll hold proctored exams).

Caltech, on the other hand, starts off by assuming that you CAN be trusted. Professors hand us closed-book, timed, non-collaborative exams to take home and trust us to follow the instructions. Caltech trusts us enough to allow us to enforce the Honor Code almost entirely by ourselves. Students that violate the Honor Code academically undergo fair trial by a committee of their peers.

This trust is, for me, what makes this school truly unique: from the outset, you will be treated as a responsible adult and be given the privileges that come with acting like one.

Secondly, the Honor Code is in large part responsible for who we are as Caltech undergrads. You'll come to find that, even though every student here is naturally competitive, none of us are at each other's throats. In order to survive at this school, we have to learn to collaborate with one another, not compete. The rather generous collaboration policies at this school are made possible by the culture of trust that the Honor Code fosters. This collaborative attitude draws students together (in their houses, with other students in their major, and so on) in an environment that might otherwise set them against one another.

We're actually a rather comiserative bunch of people. If you ever do poorly in a class, we'll most likely say, "Well, one time, the (insert typical Caltech course) final raped the \$%*& out of me, if that makes you feel any better". Compare to "Ha! that'll put me higher on the curve." If you ever slip socially, we'll say, "Don't worry about it! This is Caltech, for heaven's sake" instead of, "Hey buddy, thanks for making me look damn good in comparison."

In closing, I'd like to shift gears and point out that the fact that Caltech has an Honor Code is not unique. It's our practice and application of our Honor Code that's unique: the fact it's so widely practiced, so implicit, and applies to all aspects of our lives instead of just academics. These things are made possible largely because Caltech is such a small school with such a tightly knit undergraduate community.

Caltech is really on an island: the sort of trust we attempt to engender here is highly idealistic and not something you'd find in larger universities or out in the real world. Furthermore, this school puts the burden of responsibility and accountability for the undergraduate application of the Honor Code on the undergrads. This has some outstanding perks and some sobering drawbacks. So, as you interact with the students and faculty here, try to keep the Honor Code in the back of your mind as we all do, and see if you can't catch a sense of both. If you have any questions, feel free to pop me an email at jeanesun@gmail.com.

Enjoy your stay!

And that is...

Because no matter how hard you try to explain the Caltech experience to your friends, your family, your peers or anyone else, they'll never really "get it". They can't. It's too hard to explain. It's too unique for anyone to understand unless you're living and breathing it every day.

It's like the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle, you cannot assign it with full precision an exact value. As soon as you try, another variable changes and your perceptions, expectations and results change as a result.

And that's exactly what makes it "the" once-in-a-lifetime experience. It's why alumni stay so involved with the Institute ten, twenty and fifty years later. It's why we're proud to be Techers even though it was tough and downright painful sometimes. It was still fun, amazing and energizing.

Enjoy yourselves this weekend, meet everyone you can and explore every nook of the campus... and even if you find some faults, remember that there's only one Caltech, and send in your acceptance letter. We would be honored to have you join the Class of 2010.

Hope to see you at Freshman Camp in September.

They're all fine houses, so come and join one.

Angie Bealko
BS 1996
Caltech Alumni Association
President-Elect

The Cannon: MIT Perspective

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

The Tech interviews Andrew Westerdale, an MIT freshman living in East Campus near where the cannon was (re)stolen:

What were your experiences on the day Caltech stole the cannon back?

4:00 AM: Getting ready to go to bed, a few kids come running through the lounge and say, "Caltech is coming for the cannon, we're having a send-off party for it, come help us set up for it." I follow them down to the spot where the cannon was being kept and see between ten and fifteen people taking the ring off the cannon. I was told that Caltech called at 1:30 telling us they would be here within 12 hours for their cannon and wanted the ring off in three hours.

4:30ish: After people get the ring off, we start setting up for the party. Some people went to the campus general store to get food for the barbecue, others decorated the cannon with streamers, palm trees, etc. Others made signs welcoming our guests, and I helped bring over tables and a barbecue for the party.

5:00ish: Decorations more or less complete, we start the party. By now there are closer to 15 to 20 people huddling around the grill cooking and drinking hot cocoa. Someone notices that from the building across from us that two people are watching us.

5:30ish: Two MIT students go up to see what is going on and find two Caltech students standing there posing as MIT students, hanging out in the hall way each with 2 textbooks under their arm and talking on the phone. When one of our kids went up there to invite them to our party they responded, "No, we are very, very upset" and then left.

6:00ish: We began to wonder when the Caltech people would be here for their cannon seeing as they called 4 1/2 hrs ago and said to have the ring off by 4:30.

6:30ish: An MIT professor walking by us tells us he was just on the phone with about 15 Caltech students. Soon after we see them building up in a nearby building.

7:00: Caltech kids start coming towards the cannon. We offer them food, they do not reply. Then 30 of them end up covering up the wheels and rolling it back to the truck. As they are going to the truck and waiting for it to be loaded, I carried a tray of burgers and dogs that I offered to our guests. None of them accepted (although several MIT students and an LA Times photographer took the offer). In total it took the thirty of them 45 minutes to get the cannon on the truck ready to go. By now there were about 50 MIT students there watching and cheering them on.

7:45ish: After the truck pulled out, the Caltech students came back to our party and (finally) had some food. When we got back we saw the minicannon and the poorly cut metal F. While we were standing there about 6 Caltech kids went into a lecture hall in the Green Building (which faces the grassy area we were in) and put up the letters "FLEMING" in the windows. This took them about 15 minutes (similar numbers in time and people that it took MIT students to take the cannon) and they almost put the N up backwards. The Caltech kids shared stories of their planning for their trip to MIT, lack of sleep, etc.

By 9:00 the celebration had ended, we cleaned up and it was time to get ready for class.

What did you think of Fleming's

response, given the amount of time they had to prepare?

I understand that they didn't have a whole lot of time to plan something clever, so given that constraint I guess their response was fine because it got the job done. The cannon and 'F' were a nice touch, but overall I was expecting a more swift recovery than the more than twenty man hours it took.

What sort of impression did the stolen cannon make on the pre-frosh?

I think it really helped show some of the fun/creative/random stuff MIT does. I did a few campus tours and made it a point to show the pre-frosh the cannon.

What did you think about Caltech's prank at CPW last year?

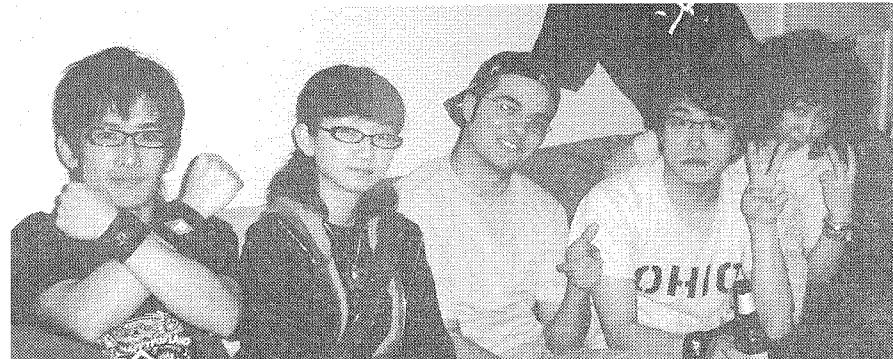
I was a pre-frosh at the time. I have one of the shirts and I think that Caltech's prank last year was clever and humorous and I don't see any problem with it.

Do you think that the pranking culture between Caltech and MIT is revived?

There seems to be a healthy relationship going back and forth now of good natured hacks. Personally, I think that the whole caltechvsmit.com thing is a little over the top. Hacking shouldn't be about who's winning and the scoring is fairly arbitrary.

Some Caltech students were upset that the hackers didn't leave a note, and was probably the cause of the police report. Is this something that the hackers overlooked, and would fix in the future, or something that follows legitimately under MIT's "pranking etiquette"?

That is not part of MIT hacking ethics/culture so I'm sure it wasn't even a thought to the MIT hackers.



Polysics: DEVO/kraftwerk child

BY: JAVIER SOLIZ

Polysics! What can I say? I love the Polysics. This is clearly my favorite band to see live hands down. I finished up finals early last term and followed them around on tour. Honestly, I have no idea how anybody can attend one of their shows and not get pumped up to the point of dancing, jumping, and otherwise throwing yourself head first into the musical gauntlet which is Polysics. A typical show is high energy, practically incessant and will hit you with musical influences from all directions.

New wave, surf rock, ska, techno pop, punk, rock, Japanese garage, German rock, techno, and progressive rock all mixed together is probably a good way to describe Polysics. My favorite explanation came from their tour manager at the Café du Nord (San Francisco) audience - "if DEVO and Kraftwerk were to have a child this would be it!"

Don't worry that you won't

enjoy this band because you don't know Japanese. Lead singer Hayashi would assure you that "there is no particular message behind our music or song lyrics. It's been that way ever since we first got together - ever since our indie days...A message? There is no real message." This is evidenced by one of my personal favorite songs, "I My Me Mine", in which the forms of English pronouns are listed off and accompanied by recorder solos.

High energy is the philosophy of lead singer and guitarist Hayashi, who started Polysics with only himself and a programmable Korg Polysix synthesizer. The band started on the underground in Tokyo in 1997 and it wasn't long before Hayashi was noticed and given a major label. Along the way he picked up Fumi (bass, voice), Kayo (synth, voice, vocoder), and drummer Yano.

Each member brings their own element of style to the show. Yano drives the band stylistically playing sets with ease. Hayashi, spastically dances around throwing himself into every position

you can think of while playing a guitar and showering the stage with sweat. Kayo is a nice contrast with her cute shyness and robotic dance movements. She pokes at the keyboard and amuses the crowd with pom-poms and solo vocals. Fumi plays the bass with a bad-girl attitude and contrasts this with cute voice work.

I left tech before finals week and followed this band on tour last term. I can tell you about them forever, but reading this, listening to their albums or watching their DVDs won't do the band justice. Where they really shine - or shall go off like a flash-bang in your face - is on the stage. There's no substitute to dodging the sweat and beer flying from a hyped-up Hayashi while having mind-numbingly loud speakers tickle your loins with the sweet melodies of Kayo's synth and Fumi's vocals. Fucking awesome!

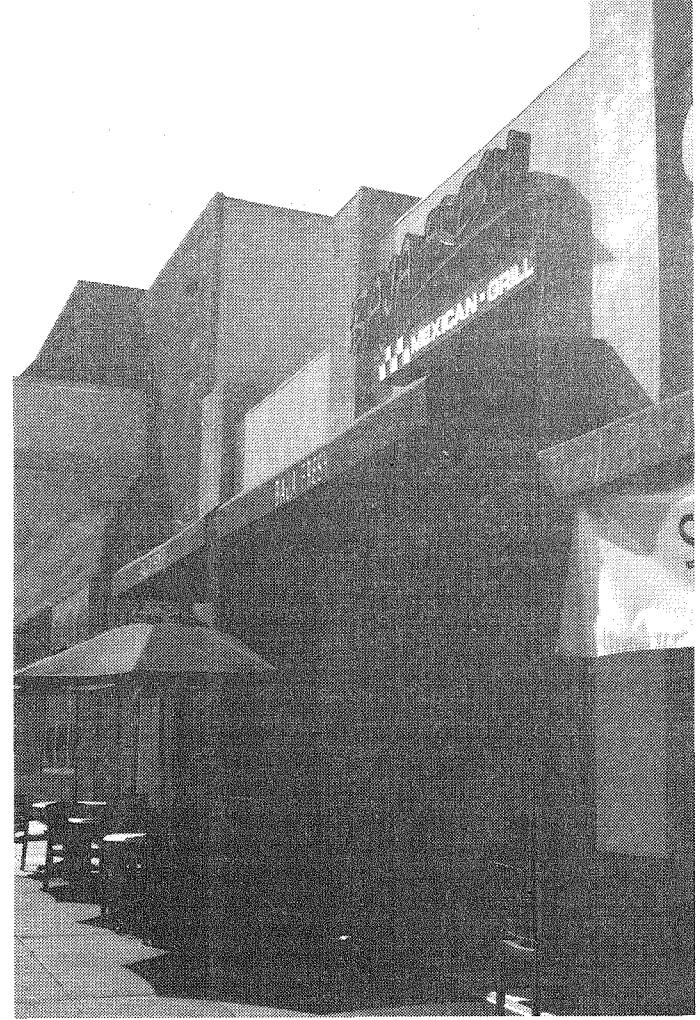
There newest album "Now is the Time" is available in the U.S. and has two additional tracks which weren't on the Japanese version I imported. Check out the official Polysics home page at www.polysics.com.

Better than McDonalds

BY: JOSHUA GUTMAN

close, fast, and reasonably priced, this is your place. They have a good selection of Mexican food and are located just a few blocks from campus. My personal favorite is the Burrito Ultimo. The key in ordering this is to ask to substitute the sour cream with guacamole which they will do for no charge. You can also make a useful trip out of it with Block-

Photo by Matthew Glassman



Baja Fresh on Lake and Del Mar

are all serious factors to consider for a restaurant to make this coveted list. I'm sure you're getting impatient even having to read this short list, so here we go:

Denny's

This might seem like a cliché choice, but it is a true staple of late night food and probably one people are familiar with. I know that people generally order breakfast food at Denny's but I would highly recommend the Spicy Buffalo Chicken Melt. You may think breakfast is their specialty, but this sandwich has yet to disappoint. As far as the other places on this list go, Denny's is a little more expensive, but you can easily walk out of there after tax and tip for under \$10 a person and still get fed. It's a good 2 miles and change, but I have made this walk when my friends and I were drunk and no sober drivers could be found.

Puebla Tacos

This is nothing short of unbelievable Mexican food. There are quite a few options to choose from and also open late into the night. This place, much like Denny's is also within pseudo walking distance. Try their BBQ pork, I've heard it's amazing, but haven't gotten around to trying it yet.

In-n-out

Those of you from east of Las Vegas might not have even heard of this place before coming out here, but as far as true fast food goes in California this is hands down the best fast food burgers on the west coast. They have a very simple menu and basically everybody orders the double double. They're open until at least 1:00 am every day of the week and 1:30 am on Friday and Saturday. If you haven't tried them yet a good opportunity would be when the truck comes to campus on Wednesday.

Baja Fresh

If you want somewhere good,

buster, Tower Records, and Good Guys right across the street.

Sandwiches by Connal

I think it's safe to call this the Mecca of delicious and greasy food near Tech. They have a huge selection of delicious sandwiches, but they also have various types of fries like zucchini fries and over 10 different flavors of milkshakes.

I'm sure you're starving by now, but I would like to make a few honorable mentions that had to be left off for one reason or another:

The Pantry

This is THE place to go when working all night on sets. You can get enough food to leave stuffed to the brim for around \$6. It's a bit far being all the way in LA, but well-worth the trip. A good pantry run can be done in 45 minutes.

Go Fresh

If you like the Mongolian BBQ in chandler, you'll be overwhelmed when you try this place. The noodles are a lot thicker and flavorful and they actually let you stack your own meat which unfortunately CDS has stopped.

Del Taco (Tuesday Night Only)

If you heard about the first event in the tacolympics you know that eating 16 of these in 20 minutes is a bad idea, but getting 3 tacos for \$1.09+tax on Tuesday nights is quite a deal.

Krispy Kream

The one in Burbank is blessed by a rabbi, That doesn't give much weight in the red states, but goes over quite well with the Jew Tang Clan.

The Coffeehouse of Yore

I'm sorry, but the Coffeehouse in Chandler doesn't hold a candle to this coffeehouse. You should try it when it moves back to the SAC, which by my guess will be when they redo the South Houses again in 2055. See you guys at the grand opening.

Administrative Anatomy

BY: CHANDRA BARNET

Ask a student about living at Caltech, and sooner or later, there are two words you are likely to hear: "The Administration." Looming large over the student body, this monolithic beast arranges our affairs day and night, from the classes we take to the furniture in our courtyard to what we have for lunch. Like Big Brother come 22 years too late, the faceless machine rolls on, creativity and individuality quailing in its wake...

Or not. Although the Caltech administration is a complex organization, we are lucky enough to enjoy the benefits of a small school: far from faceless, the people deciding our campus policies include many people we deal with day-to-day. But who are the people who handle our daily affairs, and how do we communicate with them? How is the responsibility for a campus-worth of logistics divided amongst all the various departments and offices here? What does Tom Mannion REALLY

do? And what's a MOSH?

The entire Caltech administration is too large and complex to untangle in the space of a single article. However, most of the services we use on a daily basis are coordinated by just two departments: Student Affairs and Business and Finance. Between



Dean Barbara Green

them, they provide virtually all of our on-campus necessities, from housing to tech support. While Business and Finance also oversees several organizations that serve the wider Caltech community, Student Affairs is (you guessed it) devoted to the needs of the student body.

Margo Marshak, VP for Student Affairs, oversees most of the major divisions we deal with day to day, including Dining,

Housing, Health Services, and Athletics. Also under the Student Affairs umbrella are all of Caltech's Enrollment Services: Admissions, Financial Aid, the office of the Registrar, and the MSE.

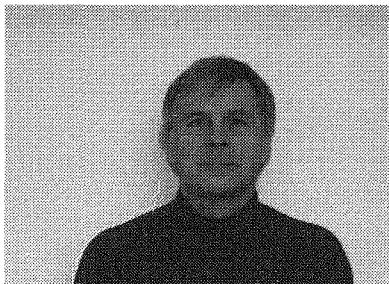
In addition to the oversight of these campus services, the Student Affairs department serves unofficially as a routing mechanism for students with concerns relating to the wider administration – if an individual has problems or questions which are outside of the scope of Student Affairs, Margo and her staff work to convey those concerns (and, where appropriate, the student voicing them) to the parties who need to hear them.

As such, Student Affairs acts as a gateway for communications with the Board of Trustees, General Counsel, and other offices with which students do not ordinarily have contact.

With so many hats to wear, Margo relies on the capable assistance of her management team, each member of which heads up one of the seven divisions in the Student Affairs department.

The Deans: The Dean of Stu-

dents, Prof. John Hall, and Associate Dean Barbara Green are responsible for supporting and advising individual undergraduates in personal matters, from disciplinary to academic. They are also happy to serve as the initial point of contact for any of the other branches of Student Affairs – if you aren't sure where to go with your problem, you might



Dean John Hall

give the deans a call first. This is really two divisions in disguise, since the graduate community is served by the separate office of Dean of Graduate Studies Michael Hoffmann.

Campus Life: By far the most complex organization under Student Affairs, it's headed up by Tom Mannion. If you've ever noticed that the man seems to be everywhere, here's why:

Campus Life is divided into two branches, Student Life and Dining, each with their own subdivisions, but for the time being, Mannion is directly responsible for both. This means that in addition to supervising Housing, and the liaison offices for the Caltech Y and campus child care, he currently oversees the operations of the Bookstore, Caltech Wired, and the Card Office, as well as all of CDS's daily operations on- and off-campus.

MOSH: While Student Life has a broader concern for the needs of the entire student body, Prof. Cathy Jurca, the Master of Student Houses, is responsible for supporting the unique character of Caltech's undergraduate community. Apart from providing opportunities for cultural enrichment, such as opera and movie nights, the MOSH is tasked with fostering interactions between students and faculty. She currently sponsors several student-faculty dinners every year, and contributes to house-sponsored student-faculty mixers.

Next week: Housing and contact info

On Caltech Security

BY: HAMILTON FALK

I was disappointed to read that Caltech security caught thieves from (M)ITT Tech stealing the Fleming cannon and let them get away, fooled by a story about being movers. It was obviously a hoax, since the "moving company" was composed of pale, scrawny 20 year olds with taped glasses and pocket protectors, and were working at 5 am, and everyone knows that Teamsters, like college students, are never awake during hours in which McDonalds is still serving from its breakfast menu. It might have also seemed suspicious that there were professional movers with working orders, considering that the last time the cannon was moved, the work was done by the tried and true method for moving a several ton piece of equipment: making fresh drag it.

Allowing these people to steal the Cannon would be like letting someone just walk into the South House's during renovations and leave with the Fleming Hot Tub. I normally think security does an excellent job, especially since I've never been robbed or sexually assaulted(1) in my time here at Caltech, and Security seems to have excellent judgment when it comes to determining what things

are fun pranks and what things are actually crimes. Unfortunately this may have been part of the reason security did not take more action in stopping the kidnapping of the Franco-Prussian Mark III DeathBringer Cannon. This is why I believe that from now on Security should implement better protections for those things on the Caltech campus that are considered "unprankable."

This illustrious list includes the Fleming Cannon, as well as the Fleming Bell and Flag, the Lloyd Gong, the Page signature book, the **** GPA, the Ricketts Gong, the Ricketts brakedrum, the Ricketts Firepot(2) Grill, the **** First Amendment Rights, the Blacker Tapestry and the Discobolus trophy. **** has also petitioned to include the **** Peace and Quiet and the **** sense of mild indignation on this list.

I think there is no question that Caltech should use some of the money they've earned by allowing crime dramas like Numb-threes on campus to bulk up our own crime prevention units. If Security was adequately funded they would never have allowed a rival to steal away with the weaponry that is the only armament that keeps Napoleon III from waltzing onto campus and declaring that we may not proceed with the unification of the German state under

HUMOUR

Prussian leadership(3). If security had some of those awesome riot police outfits with the big glass shields, and maybe some kind of Hummer with a mounted grenade launcher, they could have either beaten the Cannon thieves senseless, or chased down their truck and left it smoldering in the street as they towed the Cannon back to campus.

Obviously people who say violence never solves anything don't know what they're talking about(4). Another question that arises out of this crime is why was the Cannon chosen as the target of the prank/Grand Theft? The criminals claim it is a Caltech landmark, apparently not realizing that it is the Fleming Cannon, not the Caltech Cannon (which is what physics professor David Goodstein was known as during his career as a minor league pitcher). However, the ease with which the Cannon was snuck past security and the fact that those future felons from the east5 knew the Cannon would be vulnerable, since it is no longer attached to the ground with a U-lock due to renovations, makes some people suspicious that there may have been inside help.

Perhaps Fleming itself allowed the Cannon to be temporarily stolen in a charitable act for those poor denizens of the frozen wastes of the northeast. In addition, since Lloyd can logically

be blamed for instigating the theft, Fleming could then justify beginning a war of conquest on the other houses(6), in hopes of using their new subjects to fashion a team large enough to play NCAA football. There is another plot that could be brewing, one so obviously not true that it couldn't possibly be fake.

It should be pretty obvious by now that Avery, CDS and Ronald McDonald (with the help of cheese soup, in a secret Volkswagen, hidden in the past) orchestrated the whole thing. The whole point is, Caltech security needs to improve its performance, but they can't do it without our support, love, and the high velocity closing pitching of David Goodstein.

(Footnotes)

1 This is even more remarkable considering I've occasionally used Ax (or Tag?) body spray, products which (according to their strongly fact-based commercials) cause women to attack those who use them in a lusty manner.

2 Although like MIT, the Caltech administration has no respect for the unprankable nature of these things, as evidenced from their dastardly, although in a way hilarious, prank of stealing the Ricketts firepot by having the fire department pretend that an open fire inside a building was a "fire hazard."

3 For more information on the Franco-Prussian war, do your own research.

4 "Violence solves some things in a very unpleasant manner and other things not at all" would be much more accurate.

5 Security filed a police report for Grand Theft, which is a felony, because the pranksters/suspected terrorists failed to leave a note, as is customary at Caltech. Security also said I...want to throw some kid in jail". (To be fair, the ... replaced the word "don't", but without my editing Security doesn't seem like heartless monsters.)

6 Donald Rumsfeld also suspects that Blacker has WMDs.

**** Editor: Deleted due to potential violation of Rotation Rules.

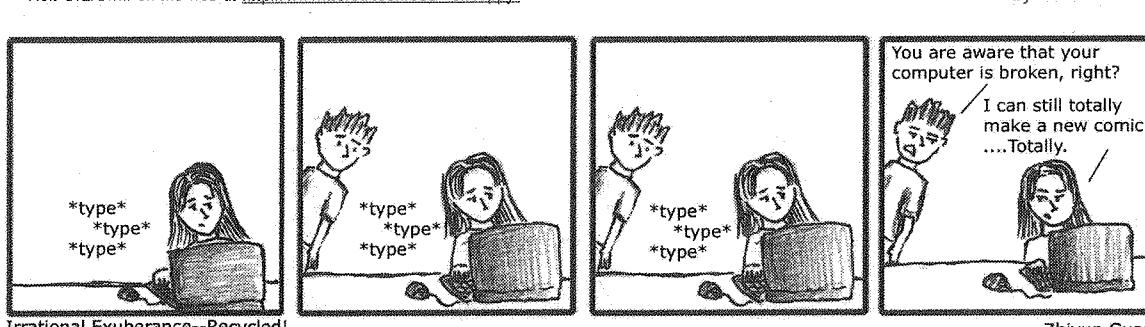
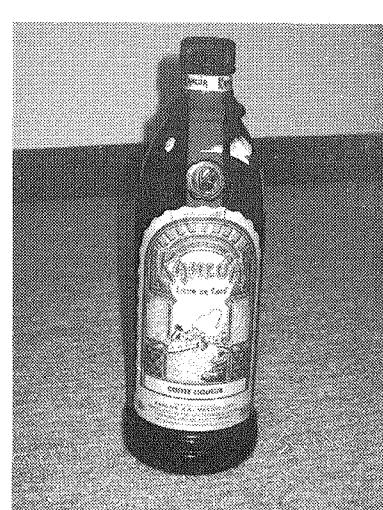
Drink o'the Week

Saturation

BY: JOHN McNAMARA

1 part Galliano
1 part Kahlua
1 part Crème de Cacao
2 parts Frangelico
4 parts sugar syrup

Build this drink in a Caltech Dining Services glass and knock it back. When you set the glass down, you notice that the taste consists of mismatched herbs. No worry, what matters is the sugar shock. It covers your tongue, washing away any vestige of taste you once had. It is not pleasant nor does it make sense. This is just there to clean the mouth out and help you forget anything else you swallowed. But think for a minute: you got that glass from the north kitchen. One million cockroaches defecated on the glass you use to prepare it. That's right, you are drinking cockroach feces. That does not matter for you. This drink has enough sugar to mask the reality of its constitution. I guess that is how you like your life—a sugar coated glass to mask the astringent flavor of reality. Have it your way, but I will not be drinking this one.



Tennis Teams Compete in Championships

BY: JON SENN

The Tennis Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference held its Men's and Women's Championship tournament last weekend, and the Caltech Men's and Women's teams placed 6th and 7th respectively out of 8 teams. Both teams performed as they were seeded, though the Men had hoped to earn a 5th place finish.

George Hangstrom won his matches for the Men's team against Baker from Occidental and Longeker from LaVerne.

For the Women, Chen Yee law pulled off a win versus the top seed from the second-seeded Redlands. She continued with wins versus opponents from LaVerne and Whittier.

The Women's Coach, Mandy Gamble, was running the Men's competition, so the Women were led by Assistant Coach Chico (David) Simenec. "He did an excellent job handling all the delays, organization, coaches, disappointments, and probably most frustrating of all, handling us," said Jenny Hsiao.

"Throughout the season, we had trouble with team unity. The team members who stand out as always being great team players were Diana Lin, Anna Hiszpanski (who turned out to be an excellent doubles player), Rachel Reddick, Rachel Yohay, Sonia Tikoo (who has improved dramatically throughout the season), and Ellen Hsu. However, I believe we ended on a great note team wise this weekend with everyone supporting each other."

Both teams graduate some of their top players this year. The Men's team will need to have at least four spots filled by new players by next year.



Photo by Matthew Glassman

Kevin Monajati plays his match as the Beavers battle for 5th place at the SCIAC Championships.

Correction: In the previous issue of The Tech, the caption under a fencing photo read "Park William Cram makes his opponent look retarded." This slang usage of the word "retarded" as a demeaning adjective is needlessly offensive to some, and I apologize to our readers for my mistake.

Sincerely,
Jon Senn, Editor of the Sports section

Recent Results

* = Conference Matches

Baseball:

4/9: Univ. of Redlands (Away): L, 0-23
4/11: Occidental College (Away): L, 2-19
4/15: Whittier College (Away): L, 2-16

Women's Tennis:

4/14 + 4/15: SCIAC Championships (Away):
vs. #2 Univ. of Redlands: L, 0-5
vs. #6 Univ. of LaVerne: L, 3-5
vs. #8 Whittier College: W, 5-2

Men's Tennis:

4/14 + 4/15: SCIAC Championships (Home):
vs. #3 Occidental College: L, 0-4
vs. #7 Univ. of LaVerne: W, 4-0
vs. #5 Pomona-Pitzer Colleges: L, 0-4

Women's Water Polo:

4/9: Chapman Univ. (Home): L, 3-11
4/9: Cal Maritime (Home): W, 8-4
4/12: Whittier College* (Away): L, 1-18
4/15: Univ. of LaVerne* (Away): L, 0-9

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 18th

3:00PM - Baseball vs. Pomona-Pitzer

Wednesday, April 19th

7:00PM - Women's Water Polo @ CMS

Sunday, April 23rd

2:00PM - Women's Water Polo @ Cal Lutheran

Women's Ultimate Frisbee Team Advances to Regionals

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

Caltech's women's Ultimate frisbee team qualified for the Southwest Regionals tournament this weekend by placing sixth in the SoCal Sectionals. Though Caltech was summarily defeated by first and third seed teams UCLA-A and Santa Barbara, they smashed UCLA-B and UCSD-B, and narrowly beat fifth seed Cal-Poly to advance their seed from seventh to sixth. In addition, Caltech also played an edge-of-the-seat match with USC, with an amazing comeback from Caltech in the second half until USC narrowly beat Caltech 11-10.

Great plays came from Snatch

members in every match. Katherine Poulin continually made impressive lay-outs in the endzone for the disc, including one during the Cal-Poly game where she slid in the dirt for the disc. Sarah Payne made countless passes to Tai Carvalho for the score, especially in the UCLA-B game. One of Snatch's more ingenious plays came on the field during the USC match. While USC's general strategy was to huck the disc down the field and have someone catch it in the end-zone, a few Snatch players discovered in the second half that USC had a hard time playing against a four-man cup zone defense, where four players surround the person with the

disc. With this weakness exposed, Snatch came back and scored 7 points in the second half, much to USC's fear.

Along with Snatch's sweat and tears was a bit of blood. Lizzy Trower laid out in the end-zone for the disc against UCLA-B, but face-planted into the hard dirt for a bloody lip. When she pulled herself up again, and even decided to continue playing, everyone on the field and sidelines cheered, even UCLA. She went on a few plays later to make her catch in the end-zone. Tai Carvalho suffered extreme leg cramps in the USC game, but was aided by Ransom Poythress, bottled water, and a few potassium-filled bananas to

continue playing.

The team's success was surrounded in positive attitude.

"I'm really proud of how we performed, even missing some key players who were ineligible," said Lizzy Trower, a frosh in Ruddock. "We pulled it together when we needed to and really worked as a team more so than ever before."

Also important to Snatch's success were its enthusiastic sidelines. Before the UCLA-B game on Sunday morning, several Caltech guys, most of them boyfriends dragged to the tournament, painted "SNATCH" across their chests and chanted "Beaver fever" to the girls' "Snatch it

up!"

"When we soon realized that the weather was quite colder than we imagined without our shirts on, we kept warm by shouting chants and rearranging to form new words," said RJ Krom, sophomore in Lloyd and Snatch supporter.

Not all of the Snatch members are convinced that they will play at regionals - after all, the tournament will be held in San Diego during midterms week. But after being seeded sixth in Southern California, and having beaten other Southwest teams like Arizona, there is no doubt that Snatch will be able to pull some wins in the regionals tournament as well.



Photo courtesy of Marissa Cevallos

Tai Carvalho catches a pass against UC-Santa Barbara's Burning Skirts.

Techer Aids in Cancer Research

BY: MATTHEW GLASSMAN

Do you think you could swim 1500 meters, bike 40 kilometers, or run 10 kilometers? How about doing them in a row? In under three hours?

This is ultimately what freshman Rebecca Barter and other triathletes hope to accomplish through months of training for hours on end. Now tack on the pressure of raising \$5,400 to support research for a cure for cancer and you have really got your hands full.

This is the principle of Team in Training, a program organized by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. It is described as "the world's largest sports endurance training program." Participants are asked to raise money for the society's research and in return receive training to compete in Olympic distance triathlons.

While this support network includes two days a week of guided workouts with certified coaches,

because of her schedule, Barter cannot attend any. Instead, she trains on her own, alternating between the three sports and exercising from one to three hours a day.

With respect to her personal goals for the race, Barter said, "I've gone through a couple different injuries preparing for the competition, so right now I'm looking to finish strong, not necessarily aim for a specific time."

Since she began her training back in December, she has sustained a strained calf and sprained ankle.

Fundraising for the event, a critical factor for Barter's participation in King's Trial triathlon in Maui, has been quite a challenge. A fellow triathlete, Max Zavodny, dropped out of the program after realizing that he would not make the mark.

Graduating this year, Zavodny has participated in many of these types of races, and is president of the triathlon club on campus. With about five to ten active

members, the club has been represented in about a dozen meets since last year.

At 74% of her fundraising goal with just under six weeks to go, the pressure is building up.

"Whole sports teams get together and can raise a couple thousand a season. I've got to raise more, and on my own."

At one point, Barter looked into getting corporate sponsors, but that did not end up leading anywhere. Nevertheless, the CNS major from a small town in Maine remains optimistic.

"It's a lot of money to raise in 6 weeks," she agrees. "But I'm hoping that with the support of members of the Caltech community, I will be able to reach that goal."

This battle has been more than a physical challenge for Barter. After losing her father to cancer during her freshman year of high school, Barter has pursued many different avenues to aid in the search for a cure. This most recent activity is one that she hopes will

not only financially contribute to research, but also inspire those still struggling against cancer.

"The fact of the matter is that it's a good cause," said Zavodny. "Most of us have a personal connection to the issue it raises."

Depending on her time in the future, Barter is considering participating in the Iron Man competition, which is by far the toughest triathlon. It is the same race, just with much longer distances.

"This is the pinnacle of what I could do with my training," she said, "so that's pretty exciting."

If successful, Barter will be part of an organization that, over the past 18 years, has raised \$660 million for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

As long as she has the chance to contribute, Barter will keep fundraising and exercising, which means more hours at the pool, on her bike, and on her feet.

To help Rebecca fulfill her goal, you can visit her website at <http://www.active.com/donate/tntgla/tntglaRBarter>.

For more information on getting involved with the Triathlon Club, contact Max Zavodny at: max@astro.caltech.edu.

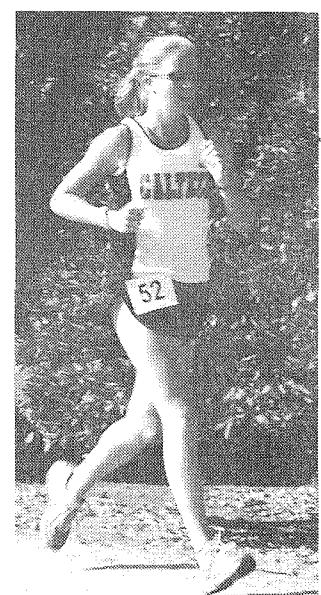


Photo courtesy of Rebecca Barter

Rebecca Barter trains for a triathlon.

Track Prattle

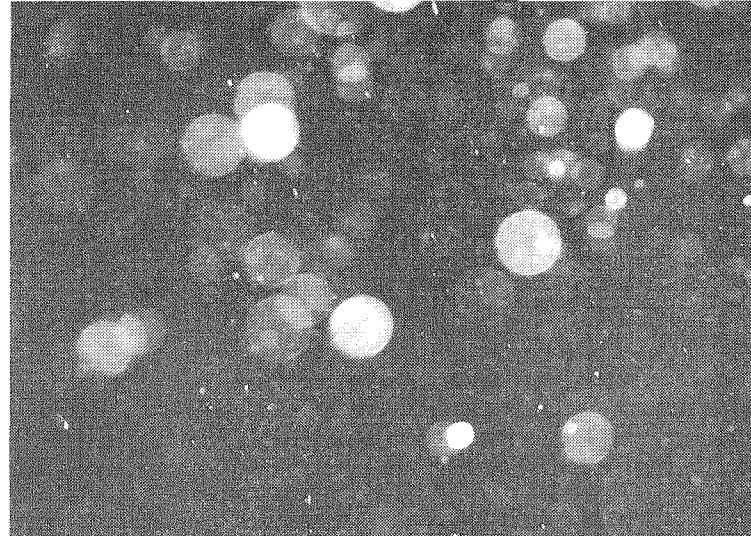
Where the Wild Things are Drinking Gatorade

BY: MARK EICHENLAUB

With special assistance from Maurice Sendak, Dashiell Hammett, Lindsey Lohan, William Butler Yeats, Bjarne Stroustrup, King James, the Man from Nantucket, and my good friend, the internet

It was a dark and rainy day. The disgruntled athletes crowded around me in the meager confines of two thin white tents, hoping in vain to find some brief respite from this torrential downpour, this angry inundation, raining down like the punishment of an offended god. But these were bodies hardened by years of iron discipline. These sound minds and strong wills were forged deep in the bellows of the world's finest institute of technology. Though their bodies may have been curled into the fetal position, something whispered confidence into my ear, letting me know in my gut that when the time came these runners would perform. Yes, underneath that ersatz exterior of defeatism, a fire burned within these hearts, and I'm not talking about the kind of fire in your heart that comes Thai food.

So then the first race was like the 4x100m relay and I was like "oh My GAWD!! these guys are going like sooooo fast!!! There goes Tencia Lee and Helen Tai and Natalie Szweda and Angela Magee and Tim Tirrell and Stuart Ward and Patrick Boyle and Jeremy Leibs wow he is like totally hairy!!!! They are all my absolute favoritest runners EVER!!!!" So then i was like sooo proud and the next race was the steeplechase and Gina Gage ran her personal-best 13:44 which is like in minutes and seconds in case you



In case you couldn't make it out to Pomona, here is a picture of what you missed.

were confused because i was at first and David "Cupcake" Rosen ran it too in like 10:28 which is like faster than any of the girls ran which is really really good for Cupcake. Then I was like, "Shut up!!!!!! No way!!!!!! That is too cool!!!!!!" so like, you know, that was like, whatever or something.

Turning and turning in the widening gyre (because he's shot putting) Yike Lu cannot hear the coach; Things fall apart; Zach Higbee's pole vault cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the track, The sweat-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere The ceremony of field events is drowned (except for Angela Magee's 4.51m long jump); The best lack all convictions (except Natalie vaulting 10 feet), while the worst Are full of passionate intensity

(and rain water). Surely some revelation (about running) is at hand; Surely the Second Coming (of Caltech Track) is at hand. The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out When a vast image out of the high jump pit Troubles my sight: somewhere in the vicinity of a landing mat A shape with lion body and the head of Jordan Carlson, A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun (which is absent), Is moving its springy thighs, while all about it Reel shadows of the indignant losers from other schools. The bar (fails to) drop again; but now I know That twenty centuries of stony sleep (making up for time spent at Tech) Were vexed to nightmare by a single leap, And what rough beast, its hour

come round at last, Slouches towards Bethlehem to clear 1.86m?

```
function 1500meters (runner
MarkE, runner KatherineB,
runner EvaM)
{if (runner==MarkE /*hey, that's
me!*/)
{ double time=4:14; boolean
WonATShirt = YES; } //got
a wicked spike wound on his
shin
else if (runner==KatherineB)
{ time=5:19; boolean IsMajor-
PersonalBest = YES; } //is very
fond of both Cheezits and the
barter economy
else if (runner==EvaM)
{ time=5:48; boolean Loves-
TheRain = MAYBE; } //the
rain was penance for being
late for the van
```

And then the coach Levesque saith unto them, "Thou shalt run the one-hundred meters." And so they ran the one hundred meters. And Seth Hendrickson did runneth it in 12.13 seconds, and he did runneth the 200 meters in 24.62 seconds. And Helen Tai did runneth that same event. And she did win her heat and receive from them a t-shirt. And her time was not recorded by the officials,

for they did get their meet results too wet too read. And they did not post them on the internet. And Angela Magee did also winneth a t-shirt for running a lap in 63.87 seconds. And she didth this during a race, for otherwise it would not have counted.

And then came Pat Boyle and Stu Ward. Who both ran a lap going forward. Pat went 50 of four. Stu did just a bit more. And they both seemed to have soared

Matt Kiesz ran eight hundred meters thank goodness that there were no cheaters it was done in two flat as easy as that wow what a way to compete! ers

And At last we had come to the hurdles an event that's done best without girdles Jeremy should have known but instead he just groaned and said, "conference championships are next week. check out the website <http://running.caltech.edu/track.php>"

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"We have a natural right to make use of our pens as of our tongue, at our peril, risk and hazard."

Voltaire, Dictionnaire Philosophique, 1764

Dear Loyal Readers,

Already in our short stay as Tech Editors, some of the content we have published has probably offended you. To a lesser extent, some of this content has offended us as well. While this does not necessarily indicate a job well-done, a complete lack of offense would, to us, be a sure indication of our failure. As long as students possess interesting, controversial ideas, some of our readers will be offended. However, we are beginning to receive complaints – or rather reports from others on campus who have themselves received numerous complaints on our behalf.

It is clear that nobody has any desire to curtail student freedom of speech. Primarily, the complaints express wishes for us to limit gratuitously vulgar tones employed in some of our articles. Perhaps little effect will be lost if students' articles are restricted in tone, but we fail to see the benefit to the readership of a more refined vocabulary or of a less outlandish presentation of ideas.

In our March 13th issue, for example, Herschel Mukherjee's claim that Osama bin Laden is "the most brilliant and charismatic leader on the face of this planet" is shockingly offensive; it is a sentence purposefully crafted to agitate the reader's attention and emotional response. We have no desire to limit the form in which students write Commentary. But perhaps most of you feel any potential gains in style are far outweighed by the alarming effect produced.

As students submit Commentary, we will urge them to argue effectively and in this vein, tame any gratuitously offensive wording; however, until it becomes clear that we no longer have the mandate of the ASCIT members, we fully intend to fulfill our campaign promise from February: "We recognize The Tech as a forum for student debate, and we will print student editorials of any opinion without censorship, as well as any relevant letters to the editors."

In another incident, graduate student representatives from the campus Muslim Association are upset that on April 3rd we published a cartoon known to be extraordinarily offensive to Muslims. They argue that the comic was irrelevant to the aims of the article and could have been adequately described through text alone, that it was simply gratuitous. Other students we have spoken with disagree and found the cartoon not only entertaining but supplemental to the article.

We would have preferred to run the cartoon with a prior Tech Commentary article on the subject in which the cartoon would be more appropriate to the discussion; however, in that instance we did not have space to run the cartoon legibly. It is regrettable that you were offended by our printing the cartoon, and we apologize for placing it with an article not directly about the cartoon (but rather about the controversy surrounding it). We ask you to bear in mind, however, that as a voluntary reader of a newspaper you have no right to not be offended; you may, of course, choose to skip articles which you find offensive. In the future we will clearly indicate on the bottom of the front page the nature of any offensive images found on interior pages, so that readers may choose to avoid those pages entirely.

Another topic of discussion, particularly by faculty and alumni, has been offensively vulgar reviews of pornography on March 6th and April 10th. Some detractors object that while porn reviews are acceptable, the excessive vulgarity within the articles is gratuitous and achieves no purpose. Others suggest that porn reviews have no place whatsoever in a [student] newspaper.

With regard to the former protest, we mostly agree: the sole purpose of these reviews was to be humorous, and frankly they aren't that funny – particularly if presented on a regular basis. With regard to the latter complaint, we believe that only a minority of students support limitations on the content of student articles. While we will cease any regular publication of reviews of pornography, we plan to continue to print other possibly offensive or vulgar material if students show a significant demand. Our standard, however, is that any vulgarity contribute to the effect of the article.

We refuse to stifle the tone or worse yet the actual content of our student writers merely to generate a more palatable product. Nevertheless, the goal of our paper is certainly not to inflame for the sake of being inflammatory but to represent and inform the Caltech undergraduate community and, to a lesser extent, the entire Caltech community. If a sufficient portion of the students for whom we work prefer a less abrasive publication, then we shall acquiesce.

For this reason, we have created a poll now available at <http://donut.caltech.edu/voting>. Please, if you are an undergraduate and care about the content of this paper at all, go take the poll. It will be open through Friday night.

For those of you who are not undergraduates, we care about your concerns as well. Please let us know your opinions at tech@caltech.edu. If you provide a longer email, please indicate whether you wish for us to publish your letter. Additionally, we invite all members of the community to attend our weekly staff meetings on Mondays from noon to 1:00pm at the Broad Café to discuss your concerns. We recognize that some readers would prefer to submit anonymous feedback. In the near future we will have a form for this purpose on our website, <http://tech.caltech.edu>.

Thus far, we have personally received very few email complaints: in fact, only the ones that have been previously published in this paper. We always appreciate receiving feedback to our articles. Whenever you are offended, appreciate the printing of an article, or have any other feedback, please send us an email and let us know – even if it's just a sentence or two.

Sincerely,
David Chen
Jon Malmaud
Jon Senn

Don't Tread on Me

BY: JEFFREY PHILLIPS

Caltech is a place of freedom. By and large the administration is in the business of looking the other way when it comes to the minor indiscretions of its students. After all, this is a place of self-governed Honor; we are all responsible to a higher sense of morality. However, like the rest of America, it is difficult to imagine the current generation fighting for and winning the freedoms we now enjoy. Each of us has become too concerned with our Hovse's posterity to attempt the very bold acts which would guarantee the perpetuity of our acts.

The right which weighs on my mind this week is freedom of speech and of the press. We are all familiar with the Rotation Rules in effect during Prefrosh Weekend. We are all so familiar in fact that they are enacted year after year without question, and people abide by them because the penalty falls not upon their own necks but upon the backs of their Hovse.

The closest thing to an evaluation of Rotation Rules were surveys from 2003 and 2004 (not votes; votes transcend the advisory capacity), and the 2004 results were not even released to the general public. This might have to do with the fact that a majority stated that restrictions should not be placed on what upperclassmen can say. Or perhaps the fact that a majority would have ranked Hov-

ses differently if given the choice today. Perhaps more recent feelings are different, but after 2004 there has been no similar poll, and no one has said a thing.

Year after year we are told by the people in charge not to unfairly bias freshman against Caltech; speak your mind, but don't scare them away. Things are Getting Better, after all. The administration is Finally Listening and soon things will Be Different. This is not a new mantra, but every year for the sake of our sanity, most of us choke it down and smile

"...if we are free why can't we speak freely about the Hovses, about Rotation, about our lives at this blessed/cursed institute?"

for the froshlings, talk about our best, and generally show them a good time. There is a tremendous self-serving bias which helps with that too; we want cool people like Us at Caltech, despite all the un-washed trolls who make Tech a crappy environment (and who don't read this column).

This institute's issues with freedom of speech go beyond Rotation and Prefrosh, though. Whenever some news-worthy story even sparks the public's cu-

riosity, and news reporters flock to campus for quotes and leads, a rash of e-mails issues forth cautioning the utmost care in dealing with them, usually complete with a list of qualified "safe" commentators--house presidents and such. On one hand, there is good reason for this: quotes are often taken out of context, and reporters are more interested in an exciting, contentious story than an accurate one. Yet with the recent cannon affair I have seen the looming specter of Rotation Violation slink into the picture.

Whatever shall we say about "our" cannon? Most conclude that it is best to say nothing rather than risk bringing down the hasty judgment of a few men against an entire Hovse. The general public does not understand the Hovse system, and there is a tacit consensus that a reporter's legitimate interest in the seven Hovses should end with their enumeration. In recent years however, even that has been a subject of debate with the addition of an eighth into the pantheon. One question has always burned through my mind like thermite on an engine block: if we are free why can't we speak freely about the Hovses, about Rotation, about our lives at this blessed/cursed institute? I seem to recall when I got here some big-ass hand holding a torch with the words "the truth shall set you free" emblazoned on just about everything, so let's live fearlessly by it.

Bitches is Hoes

In My Opinion, In the Past

BY: JOSHUA GUTMAN

I've come to the opinion that during two very special times of year it basically makes no sense to talk about fact whether it exists in the present or future. Hence, I preface the rest of the article with the following statement: None of the following information, regardless of the context of the verbs represents present or future events, nor does the information refer to fact and would of course only refer to theoretical houses or organizations on campus.

So I obviously realize the desire for the Rotation Rules to try to draw some kind of balance between allowing freshman to learn about the houses and making sure the frosh don't get a bad interpretation of the houses. However, houses ARE allowed to act completely out of character which on its own completely gives pre-frosh false impressions about these houses, while for other houses Rotation Rules somewhat hinder them from being themselves.

You might be confused at this point, so I will give a few PURELY HYPOTHETICAL examples. Let's say there were a fictional house where few people ever had their doors open, people in this house rarely socialized (even among themselves), and people in this house used more Vaseline and tissue paper individually than they did soap collectively. The mere act of having people in this hypothetical house host pre-frosh or have some kind of formalized socializing would in fact necessitate frosh from getting a false impression of this house.

Let's say there was some other hypothetical house whose upperclassmen had the practice of whoring out its sophomore class as a game. Rotation rules prohibit setting up pre-frosh with dates so this would considerably prevent this house from allowing the pre-frosh to participate in one of its

time honored traditions. Or for a final example, let's say there was some hypothetical house whose members were known for being confrontationaly honest and forthcoming. Rules that prevent them from speaking frankly about other houses with-

"...but what really ends up happening is that the frosh get false impressions of the houses because they draw their observations based on some fairly atypical times at Caltech."

out pussyfooting around the issue limit the ability for them to represent themselves.

It seems that the biggest problem with the Rotation Rules is not so much the spirit of the rules but the effectiveness of the rules. Many of the rules are set up so that frosh are not intentionally given false impressions of the houses, but what really ends up happening is that the frosh get false impressions of the houses because they draw their impressions based on observations based on some fairly atypical times at Caltech.

During Rotation and pre-frosh weekend, people come out of the woodwork that you might never see in the houses or socializing on campus the other 350 days of the year. These people for the most part suck a lot and absolutely make it impossible for frosh to get an accurate impression of anything.

I have some absolutely flawless solutions to the Rotation Rules issues. Rather than having these dinners that take an entire week, instead there should be a single event called "Disco Snaps". In case you are unfamiliar with what a snap is, an example would be:

"Yo' mama's so nasty, she has a sign by her pussy that says: 'Warning: May cause irritation, drowsiness, and a rash or breakouts.'" In this way houses could air all their grievances towards other houses while frosh could get a feel for the house's personalities by their choice of snaps.

Another equally flawless solution would be to hold what I like to call the "froshlympics". This event would be "greater than the World Cup, World Series and World War II combined". The frosh would compete in a variety of events including, but not limited to, taco-eating, beer drinking, porn watching, naked bowling, pranking, and being so quiet nobody knows you're alive. While this is going on, the upperclassmen could be participating in team events such as tug of war, political debates along with contests in the following categories: showing the greatest sense of self-satisfaction, self-deprecating comedy hour, but for god sakes NO DRAG SHOW, that's just nasty.

Or perhaps all the time and effort spent making/enforcing Rotation Rules could be spent making clear that most people willing to represent their house during Rotation are probably at least slightly biased towards their own house and just try to emphasize that Rotation is a time to learn about the houses and the frosh, not to tell crazy lies about other houses. I realize this might not be a much better system than the one in place, but at least it doesn't pretend to be idealistic and doesn't encourage people to act like douches.

The Rotation Rules state that you shouldn't say things like "All Booty Housers are chain-smoking necrophiliacs," because you should let pre-frosh "come to their OWN conclusion". Well, I have a conclusion for you:

Rotation and its rules is Bitch-

Shawn vs. Shawn: Off-Campus Traditions?

BY: SHAWN LIGOCKI

On Dec. 12, 1972, Caltech alum Jack Schmitt was awakened to "The Ride of the Valkyries" aboard Apollo 17. Some of his Tech friends back at mission control had chosen it as his wake-up music before a very important moonwalk that also happened to coincide with Caltech finals week. This, of course, is because of the Caltech tradition of playing The Ride at 7am during finals week in order to awaken and invigorate Techers in time to take their finals. Because of the amazing adrenaline rush it produces and the important purpose that it serves, this tradition has continued for over 50 years and is still alive today.

It would be hard to sum up The Ride better than the little t does: "At 7:00a.m. during Finals week this tune is played as loud as possible wherever students are." However, many traditions appear to be dying at Caltech due to a combination of apathy and a push to appease the lowest common denominator. This cannot happen! Caltech is founded upon its traditions and pranks. The combination of the Honor Code and Caltech's traditions and prank nature were the deciding reasons for my choice to come to Caltech and I know that there are many others who considered it so important. Every alum that I've talked to says that their fondest memories from Tech were the pranks and social quirks; several have even gloated about the power of the speakers that they built to play The Ride.

While few would disagree that traditions, along with pranks and the rest of the quirky nature of Techers, have a place in the undergraduate houses, some feel as though unaffiliated off-campus apartments (or even Avery) should be exempt from such a culture. A number of students seem to have taken refuge in off-campus locations in an attempt to escape the house culture.

While some would say that people have the right not to be bothered by such trivial traditions and that a single objection should block a disruptive event, this is not the world that we live in and it would be a lot less interesting of a world. On the Fourth of July, many Americans send up firecrackers and other loud noise-makers. On New Years Day, they do this literally in the middle of the night! Certainly there must be people who are annoyed by these

"It is important to be reminded time and again that we are at Caltech and that its traditions, pranks and quirks live on."

disturbances. However there is no crackdown on making noise to ring in the new year or the fourth of July. Why? Because they're traditions, so well known that everyone plans for them, so well liked that the celebrators consistently outnumber the bothered. What great purpose do these traditions serve? They have not built bridges or cured cancer. They serve a less quantitative good, a basic psychological and cultural need.

Holidays are not the only exception to this philosophy of accommodating the lowest common denominator. Sometimes an entire city could be inconvenienced by the presence of a rally or protest. Streets shut down and stores forced to close so that people can march. This is almost certainly very annoying and disruptive for many of the inhabitants of the city and can cost stores hundreds or thousands of dollars. In comparison, the protesters receive very little personal benefit (it costs them their valuable free time). So, why are protests not only allowed but also supported by governments? They send an important

message to the world (or country or company) and build a strong community.

A little closer to home, the tradition of Ditch Day at Caltech, while disruptive to the professors, graduates, and even the tight schedules of undergraduates, is one of the most celebrated events of the year. It builds community, allows undergrads to let off steam and presents the excitement of Caltech student life along with the innovation of Techers.

Last term when I sent out an email to 150 Chester residents, explaining my intention to play The Ride into the courtyard and soliciting feedback, I received a large amount of positive feedback: encouragement and excitement ranging from thinking it was cool, to thanking me enthusiastically for bringing back a Caltech feel to the sterile apartment complex. I also received some negative feedback and complaints. The majority of these were general sweeping arguments about why Chester should be off limits to such disturbances in general, while one or two were personal complaints about specifically disliking the playing of The Ride.

I considered my choice very carefully, however finally decided to play the ride bright and early Wednesday morning. I still believe that it was a success. A large number of residents came down to the courtyard to hang-out in one of the few social gatherings of Chester residents that we've had the entire year (much thanks for this also goes to the Chester RAs, Dylan Nieman and Emily Barrett, for providing 7am refreshments), and in the end there was only one complaint. While I agree that unaffiliated off-campus locations such as Chester should be treated specially, I do not believe that it is right to ban any tradition that only a small number of people object to. It is important to be reminded time and again that we are at Caltech and that its traditions, pranks and quirks live on.

BY: SHAWN YU

When Shawn Ligocki emailed the seventy Chester residents to inform us that he intended to play the Ride of the Valkyries on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings of finals week, I was studying for my exams as many of my off-campus peers certainly were. Therefore, it should surprise no one that I objected to the playing of the Ride. I took Shawn up on his offer to discuss the merits of this tradition, hoping to convince him not to play the Ride. I did not completely succeed, but we reached something of a compromise: he

"Personally, I believe that many Caltech traditions, while interesting, have no place in the off-campus units..."

played the Ride on Wednesday morning at 7 a.m., but fortunately for me, it was not loud enough to wake me up.

In addition to this compromise, we also had an interesting discussion that has given rise to these opposing commentaries you are reading. Personally, I believe that many Caltech traditions, while interesting, have no place in the off-campus units for two reasons.

First, there is one fundamental difference between the off-campus units and the seven undergraduate houses (and to a lesser extent, Avery). The houses not only provide a place for undergraduates to live, but also serve as basic social units, like fraternities in other universities. The various initiations we went through as freshmen reinforce the idea of the house as a social entity. For example, each house eats its dinners together and has its own system of alley challenges.

This is not to say that off-campus residents do not socially interact with each other. We do. We do our problem sets together, spend time playing and watching sports together, and go out to dinner together. Chester, for example, has its own events such as weekend barbecues and ice cream socials.

But there remains the fundamental difference that off-campus units such as Chester are not supposed to resemble fraternities the way the houses do.

In addition, most off-campus residents, if not all, live off-campus by choice, much like all house members chose into their own house. For example, those who like to get wasted often choose into Page. Or so the stereotypes would have you believe. Similarly, off-campus residents

often choose to leave the house system because they have decided to live without these traditions. Indeed, some choose to live off-campus to save money on living expenses.

Others want to avoid board food. Still others want a quieter place to study. But the fact remains that all off-campus residents have decided, in one form or another, that it would be worth giving up house traditions for more pragmatic concerns. Traditions such as blasting the Ride each morning during finals week, the most important week of each term, run counter to this pragmatism.

The second point is best articulated by our resident associate, Dylan Nieman, in a response to Shawn on the Chester mailing list: we should remember that "we have neighbors who are not students and are not members of the Caltech community." It goes without saying that these neighbors would not enjoy being wakened up by the Ride. To me, this observation reinforces the fact that the general public often responds negatively to many of Caltech's traditions, as the unfortunate Mt. Wilson incident reminded us earlier this year. In this vein, we should strive to preserve only the least obnoxious of our traditions in the off-campus units and to keep all other pranks within the confines of the Caltech campus.

Rantings of an Angry Bicyclist

BY: DAVID CHEN

Pasadena can be a beautiful city to bike in. With the trees and bushes neatly lining the streets, pedaling upon the roads can be such a pleasure.

And then you hit a street like Lake Ave, with cars hurtling through and more cars parked along the sidewalk. Naturally, the first reaction would be to get off the road before you become the next casualty in the streets of LA.

Counter-intuitively, there are some signs stating that bicycles are prohibited from Pasadena sidewalks. Given the choice of risking my limbs or breaking this traffic code, I know what I'm choosing.

Pasadena has actually put in some efforts to improve conditions for bicyclists. For example, they've recently installed many bike racks along the sidewalks, and <http://www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/trans/tpd/bikeway/bike-mainpg.asp> has maps indicating new roadside improvements.

Some of these "improvements", however, are hardly beneficial to cyclists. For example, the section of California Blvd to the east of Lake Ave is considered an enhanced class III bike route. Pasadena would claim that the added 4" white lines and "Share the

Road" signs make this path convenient for bicyclists, but the fact that cars can park streetside add the burden of dodging sideview mirrors on the right while avoiding the passing cars on the left.

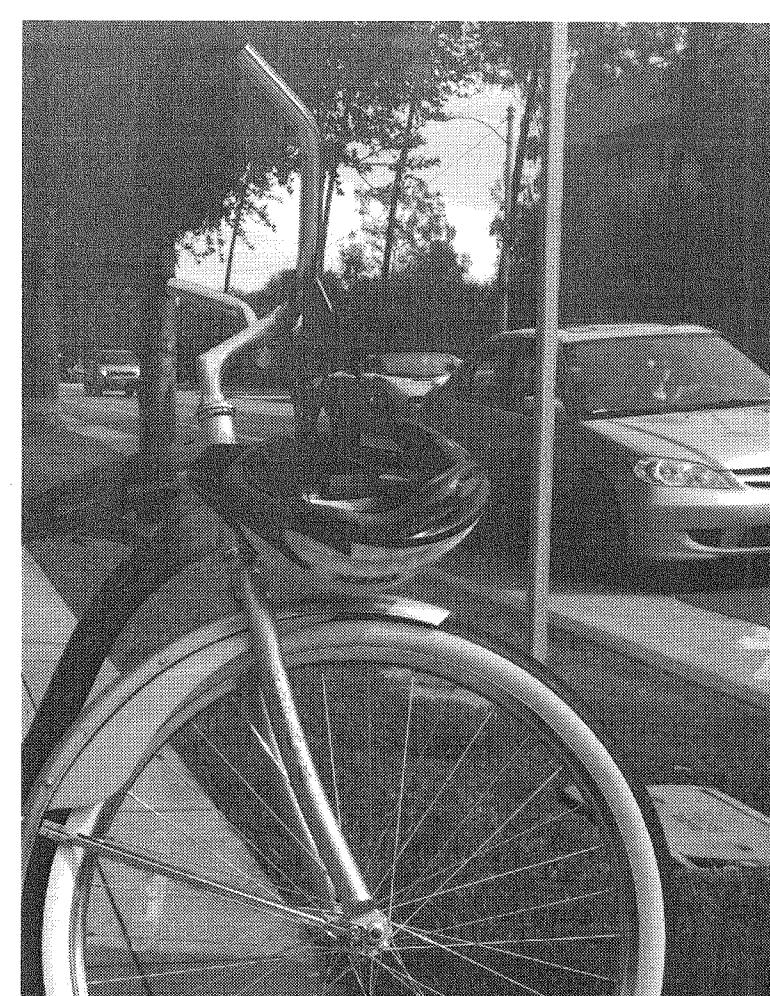
Living off campus in Chester, I frequently bike on the sidewalk along this route to buy groceries every week from Pavilion's. The lack of a real bike path, mixed in with uncompromising pedestrians, makes this an annoyance for everyone involved. In fact, some of the pedestrians occasionally criticize myself or my friends who also bike because "we should be biking on the roads", but one look at the road conditions, and I know where I'm not biking on. It really irks me that these people are also probably the same ones who parked on the street, forcing me on the sidewalk in the first place!

In fact, the best paths for cyclists to use in Pasadena are referred to as "class II bike lanes." With sections of the road that are reserved for only bicycles (ie cars can't park in these routes), these bike lanes would be the ideal choice to use, except that they seem to be clustered around the 210 Freeway, so they are hardly useful for most trips by Caltech students. For example, Lake Ave contains many stores and dining locations, but there are no north-south bike paths next to it (the

closest such path is Wilson). So I might as well just bike on the sidewalks of Lake Ave and try to be courteous to the pedestrians on the sidewalks, but I'm definitely not going onto that road.

Caltech also has put in some efforts to make the campus accessible to bicyclists, but at least one difficulty is notable. In order to reach California Blvd, there is a choice of flying down the steep driveway from Guggenheim followed by a hairpin turn, or else there is the narrow passageway behind Sloan. Both of these choices are pretty bad, as cars sometimes use the driveway and there are often pedestrians using the passageway.

While I've pointed out some problems with bicycling in Pasadena, I think it's a great mode of transportation. In addition, there are some roads, such as Cordova, that have been pretty well designed for cyclists. The combination of exercise and non-polluting should force everyone to bike more, but I feel that gas is too cheap. If gas were \$10 a gallon and everyone was forced to bike occasionally, the problems with the current design of the bike paths would gain more attention. As it is, I bet most people just drive along and notice the "share the road" without realizing the difficulties of biking in Pasadena.



One of Pasadena's "class III bike lanes" near the corner of California and Wilson. Further down the street, parked cars present quite a difficulty in safely navigating the bike lane.

Photo by Matthew Glassman

I Hunger for Greater Student Services

BY: JON SENN

Ever since I was a freshman, it struck me as odd that at Caltech, where students often stay awake literally at all hours of the morning, the Convenience Store closes at 10PM on weekends – even early at 1AM on weeknights is far too early. Worse yet, this year the coffee house no longer operates on weekends. I used to chalk up the lack of late-night food to the small size of our student body – surely, I thought, it can't be practical to run the store longer for only 900 students. But now, I am very-nearly positive that the C-Store could operate 24/7 with a per-undergrad cost of no more than 28 cents per day.

Let's analyze how much it would really cost to run the store longer – not just a couple hours, but let's go all-out and assume a utopic 24/7. As the additional hours would all be a graveyard shift, I'll assume a lofty salary of \$20/hour for the one employee. The additional hours would be Monday night through Friday night, 1am to 10am, plus Saturday and Sunday nights from 10pm to 10am. This is a grand total of 69 extra hours per week. At \$20 per hour this amounts to a mere \$1,380 per week to hire the employee. Spread this over 900 undergrads, and the cost becomes nearly insignificant at just under



22 cents per day per undergrad.

I've asked about 20 or 30 of my friends whether they'd be willing to pay a quarter per weekday to keep the store open 24/7 and every single one of them responded with a resounding yes.

Now let's examine the other hidden costs of 24/7 operation. The most obvious problem suggested is that students will successfully utilize more of their declining balance – less of it will simply expire at the end of the term unused. This cost will largely be dissolved by the change in our board plan next year anyway:

unused declining balance will roll over to the next term and not expire 'til the end of the year.

But for the sake of argument, I will assume that students will continue to forfeit the same percentage of unused declining balance each term. At the January Town Hall Meeting, Andre Mallic pointed out that the rate of unused declining balance dollars

was a paltry 1.6%. This percentage amounts to approximately \$6 per term for students on the regular house board plans, and \$16 per term for students on the Avery board plan – overall, this

would total to roughly \$4000 per term. If CDS simply reduced our declining balance for each term by these amounts, I doubt any students would care given such far superior convenience of the Convenience Store.

The costs of employees combined with the extra declining balance spent amounts to a mere 28 cents per day per undergrad!

I believe these are the only necessary costs to operating the store additional hours – I have assumed that the store has no additional profit or loss from products sold. I believe that the store

already charges enough that the store at least breaks even from sales, but please, anybody, correct me if I'm mistaken. Another objection others have raised is that the C-Store would need to be restocked more often in order to satisfy the potentially increased demand. While this would probably be the best policy for the store, it would not be a necessary one. If additional restocking were infeasible, the store could simply receive the same shipments as now. Yes, by the end of the week the more popular items will have all been purchased – such is the case to some degree even now – but such a situation could not be worse than the present. Students will have more convenient opportunities to purchase most items in the store. They can, if they wish, stock up during the early part of the week on items likely to run out. They will be able to procure some sort of snack during the late hours of the night as they slave over sets, even if the C-Store's late-week selection leaves much to be desired.

If you can think of any other hidden costs or reasons the store should not open 24/7, please send me an email and clue me in. If you'd like the C-Store open 24/7 for a cost of at most 28 cents per day, send an email to Tom Manning and let him know.

I've Made a Huge Mistake

BY: BRIAN HANLEY

I must start this article by saying that I doubt many of you will read this and even if you do, you probably won't heed my advice so it doesn't really matter what I say anyway.

I have been at this school for nearly four years. Four of the most painful years of my life. Why do I subject myself to such punishment? Honestly, I don't know.

Caltech has a reputation for being one of the top schools in math and science. Fine. I get it. People who go to Caltech are supposed to be really smart. Score one for the school I guess. But wait, this knowledge comes at a price.

I would explain to you the traffic cone analogy about Caltech, but I have apparently been censored for some of my previous articles, so such vulgarity will not be tolerated. All I can really say is that Caltech is like sitting on a traffic cone, and by graduation, let's just say the cone fits. The analogy represents not only the fact that classes somehow get more difficult every year, but also all of the other failings of the university.

One thing that everyone here knows about and definitely mentions as one of the faults of Caltech is the "ratio." Yes, yes, it is a bad thing that there are about three men for every woman and as such every hole is played, but that is only half true. The ratio is deceptive. True the actual number of undergraduate men to women is something like 3 to 1 or 2 to 1, but that isn't the whole story. These are not regular women. Recently, I thought I would try the "we'll drink 'til she's hot" philosophy, but it didn't work and when "we'll drink 'til she's hot"

school needs more of our money than before, but I see no benefit to me for this extra money, so I shouldn't be charged. Add to this extra cost, the knowledge that most services are actually doing less than before, such an increase is unacceptable.

Furthermore, the administration has taken the stance of political correctness and requires us to take care so as not to offend their employees and create a harmful workplace. We cannot have pentagrams or suggestive pictures or vulgarity in murals. This isn't just the administration taking away things that we pay for, but the administration taking away our constitutional rights, our freedom of speech, our freedom of expression. What else are they going to prohibit us from doing? Burning flags? Protesting injustice? Sleep?

Whatever you think of me, I have but one thing I need to say. Don't come here, and if you are already here, just leave. I've been here for too long, so transferring doesn't do me any good, but if I can just save one person from this misery, I've done my job. So really, don't come here, and if you're already here, just leave.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HOUSING OFFICE CORNER

Undergraduate Fall Housing Lottery Information Important Dates to Remember

Tuesday April 4	5:00 p.m. Cards must be returned to the Housing Office
Friday April 7	Housing Office posts Lottery Numbers for Unaffiliated room picks
Thursday April 13	1:30 p.m. Marks Early Lottery (Housing Office – Center for Student Services)
Monday April 24	Seven Houses room pick results and Avery early lottery results are due to the Housing Office
Friday April 28	Re-post lottery numbers for unaffiliated room picks
Thursday May 4	1:30 p.m. Unaffiliated Lottery (Housing Office – Center for Student Services)
Friday May 26	5:00 p.m. Contracts due to Housing Office.

If you have questions please contact us or stop by our office.

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Building 86, 1st Floor
Ext. 6176 / Email: housing@caltech.edu
<http://housing.caltech.edu/undergrad/>

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