

THE CALIFORNIA TECH



tech@caltech.edu

VOLUME CIX, NUMBER 26

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 5, 2008

The clash over UASH

Student rep appointments divide ASCIT, IHC

By Dan Thai

CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

They've had another dispute.

The IHC blocked an ASCIT move to absorb an academic committee by arguing that the student body trusts the IHC more than the Academic Research Committee (ARC), which is under ASCIT.

The issue over who should appoint student representatives to the Undergraduate Academic Standards and Honors (UASH) committee was tabled last week when the two opposing bodies couldn't settle their differences in time for committee signups.

ASCIT President Caleb Ng thinks that UASH, as an academic committee, fits more under ARC than IHC, which primarily deals with student housing.

"UASH is an academic focused committee, as is ARC, and so it seems logical to have the student representatives on UASH be appointed by ARC," said Ng.

The issue came to a head when will Tsay, ARC Chair, attended the IHC meeting on April 24. There, she asked that UASH be put under ARC jurisdiction.

According to the IHC minutes, the IHC responded negatively. "We'd relinquish this committee if we thought the student body trusted the ARC for this over the IHC."

Chris Watson, current IHC chair, added to this reasoning. "In the individual Houses, the President is as much a figure of authority as you get from your peers.... The election of an ARC-rep, at least in my experience, is not something that is as carefully considered as the president.... The IHC is much more likely to know the people [nominated] in advance, than the ARC would."

Ng, however, doesn't feel that it matters who conducts the interviews. "Because the process of appointing student representatives is interview based, the students selected would probably be quite similar, regardless of which body is doing the interviewing."

The two parties left with differing opinions of what will happen with the issue. "My understanding is that the IHC had said that it would be worth considering for future years, but that time constraints prevented the change for this year," said Ng.

However, Watson believes that no further discussion of the matter is necessary. "It was an argument resolved in keeping with the status quo. I feel it is unnecessary to make a big deal about it."

But following the status quo isn't so straight-forward when ASCIT resolutions and Faculty Board bylaws are contradictory and outdated. Faculty Board bylaws recognize ASCIT as the only student nominating authority, but ASCIT resolution XX delegates six committees to the IHC.

Even then, the IHC nominates seven committees currently, which is part of a

Please see UASH, Page 6

Star athlete jumps short of nationals



Rene Davis long jumping at last weekend's heptathlon in Claremont. Davis was just shy of qualifying for nationals, but may get a second shot out of state. See page 7 for the story.

MUSIC NEWS

Fluid Dynamics wins Caltech band its first award Friday to perform at Carnegie Hall

Caltech's a capella group places among nationally acclaimed schools

By ZeNan Chang

STAFF WRITER

Caltech's Fluid Dynamics a capella group won its first ever award as a group with a third place finish at the Absolut a capella competition Friday at USC. Though the small competition consisted of only five local groups, it included nationals-caliber voices, with first place going to the USC SoCal VoCals, who won the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) competition earlier this year.

Most surprising to senior singer and percussionist Tim Kwa was their placement above Acasola from Cal State Northridge, which placed third in the ICCA quarterfinals. "To be comparable to such an amazing group nearly brings me to tears."

Tim Kwa was also announced as "that crazy guy from Fluid Dynamics" when awarded the "best vocal percussionist award" at the competition. During a song, Kwa pretended to be a zamboni, the ice-re-

surfacing machine that smooths ice rinks.

Fluid Dynamics consists of nine undergraduates and one graduate student with varying musical backgrounds. While most members come in with some vocal performance experience, others, like freshman soprano Sarah Marzen, had no serious prior singing experience. They come together to sing 6 hours a week. To some members, Fluid Dynamics practices begin to feel quite homely. "I feel like Fluid Dynamics is a family away from my House," says Marzen.

To Kwa, group director Senior Jon Napolitano's extra warm-up exercises are part of the reason for Fluid Dynamics' improvement from past years, where only two individual awards have been won. Kwa also credits the group's transformation to the guidance of professional choristers Jen and Joel Levitz who offer free coaching sessions to some a cappella groups.

"Through them, we have received a tremendous amount of input on how we can take the group to the next level."

The Caltech-Occidental Concert Band will perform twice this week as part of the Bandorama program and traveling for a 5-day trip to New York City, eventually performing at Carnegie Hall. The concert band will play the Throop Institute March, two Gershwin pieces featuring mezzo soprano singer and Caltech alumnus Kjerstin Williams, and Be Glad Then America, conducted by Associate Professor in Geology Paul Asimow.

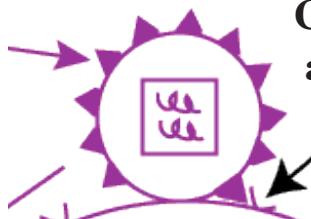
The band practices weekly and performs several concerts yearly. The band, directed by Bill Bing, has been active for over seventy years and is composed of approximately 55 members from Caltech, JPL, Occidental College, and the larger community.

The cost of the trip is approximately \$1,600 for community members and non-Caltech students, but, due to fundraising, no Caltech student will pay more than \$400. Among other sources, donations have come from the Moore-Hufstedler Fund (\$45,000), the Dean's Fund (\$10,000), the Alumni Association (\$1,000), and Friends of Instrumental Music (\$25,000).

Article adapted from a submission by undergraduate Lauren Porter.

Caltech's fight against AIDS

page 5



In This Issue

Movie on Israel makes you think
Let ASCIT do its thing
It's peanut butter jelly time
Baseball ends season winless

page 2
page 2
page 4
page 7

Cupcakes near Caltech

page 4



OPINION

2 MAY 5, 2008

THE CALIFORNIA TECH
TECH.CALTECH.EDU

Occupation 101: a useful discussion on Israel

By Evans Boney

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I went to see a screening of the documentary "Occupation 101" in Ramo Auditorium last week, and was struck not only by the high tensions on both sides of the Israel-Palestine conflict, but by the facts left completely unaddressed by our daily media. The movie primarily discussed the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Indeed, I was baffled at first by this theme (having never heard it termed an occupation), but the facts behind the movie are compelling.

On our televisions and in our newspapers, from first-hand experience, the bad guys in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are solely Palestinian suicide bombers. Such bombings are certainly horrible and beyond words, but I was surprised to learn that it is not Palestine, but Israel that has been the subject of nearly 40 UN resolutions condemning their actions in the many years of this conflict.

Let me be clear, this is no justification for suicide bombing any more than there is justification for our suicide shootings in

the US, and we do not discuss this issue further here for the reason made very clear above and by the filmmakers: we already know about that side of the issue. Protesters handed out propaganda before the event and were quite vocal during the question and answer session with the filmmakers.

"...the movie and the facts behind it raise an interesting question that deserves a longer, calmer, and more in-depth discussion at Caltech: What in the world is the US doing in Israel?"

ers, leading several of them to be asked to leave by security. As an observer and scientist with few preconceived notions on the issue, the shouting from the audience and the calm, collected responses of the filmmakers spoke volumes.

I am deeply disappointed in the inability to maintain a civil discussion on our campus, and am ashamed that, at an institution that supposedly seeks truth, shouting still overwhelms debate.

That is not to say the Israeli side is without cause for disgust with parts of the movie. The film-making was overly grandiose, with zoom-ins on apples and tears meant to evoke emotion coming across as trite and pointless, which was no doubt offensive to the people who have a personal connection to the Israeli side of the conflict.

Israeli supporters made a good point that the exact situations surrounding the injury and murder of the children shown in the movie were

not (wholly) known in all cases, and that repeated footage in the film gave the impression of more destruction than actually had been captured.

Finally, use of the phrase "ethnic cleansing" by film-makers was understandably seen to have the wrong connotation, as Israeli soldiers are not routinely committing the atrocities typically associated with the phrase, regardless of whether or not they are forcibly and illegally remov-

ing an ethnicity from the land on which they once lived (the meaning intended by the filmmakers). However, on the whole, the movie and the facts behind it raise an interesting question that deserves a longer, calmer, and more in-depth discussion at Caltech: What in the world is the US doing in Israel?

At a time when our other war in the Middle East is on the news daily, it deserves more than a little thought that, in 2007, we gave over \$2.4 billion in aid to Israel, 0.3% of our spending on the Iraq war in that time, and more than we gave to any other nation.

It also amounts to 13.4% of our entire foreign aid for the year. To a country that has 0.1% of the world's population. To a country with the 22nd highest per-capita GDP in the world (out of 192 nations in the UN; we are 4th). Without any national debate on the issue in recent memory. Discuss.

Evans Boney is a graduate student in chemistry and the GSC chair.

Letters to the Editor

By Will Tsay

ARC CHAIR

In response to Craig Montuori's article last week on hearing back and oversight from the student representatives on the faculty board committees, here is a summary of the issues that the academic committees are currently dealing with and the decisions they've passed. We plan to continue to update you on the committees through the ARC websites and periodic updates in the Tech. If you ever have any questions about what the committees are doing or if you'd like to voice your concerns, feel free to contact the student committee reps directly (listed on the ARC website), talk your ARC rep, or e-mail all of us at ARC at arc@caltech.edu. We want to hear from you, so we can best serve and represent the students who elected us.

The Academics and Research Committee (ARC)
<http://arc.caltech.edu/>

The California Tech

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
advertising e-mail: business@caltech.edu
editorial e-mail: tech@caltech.edu

VOLUME CIX, NUMBER 26

Editor-in-Chief
Marissa Cevallos

News Editor
Sarah Marzen

Features Editor
Hanna Liu

Sports Editor
Yang Yang

Photography Editor
Jonathan Tsai

Staff
Dannah Almasco
ZeNan Chang
Perrin Constdine

Tina Ding
Mark Eichenlaub
Andrew Freddo
Anna Hiszpanski

Michelle Jiang
Robert Karl
Chris Kennelly

Natalya Kostandova
Vibha Laljani

Lisha Li
Harold Martin

Sarah Marzen

Valerie Syverson

Gloria Tran

Stephanie Wuerth

Wesley Yu

Business Managers
Evelyn Chou
Kimberley Ho

Webmaster
Michael Comstock

Circulation
Matthew Wierman

Adviser
Dr. Gary Libman

The Tech is published weekly except during vacation and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers.

Letters and submissions are welcome; e-mail submissions to tech@caltech.edu as plain-text attachments, including the author's name, by Friday of the week before publication. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for any reason. All written work remains property of its author. The advertising deadline is 5 PM Friday; all advertising should be submitted electronically or as camera-ready art, but *The Tech* can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising inquiries should be directed to the business manager at business@caltech.edu. For subscription information, please send mail to "Subscriptions."

Let ASCIT spread its wings for once

It works with the house system, not against

By Craig Montuori

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The next month will be my last here at Caltech, so I'm going to lay out my personal philosophies about Caltech and student life here in a lasting record, assuming the Tech gets around to bounding previous years.

First, I'll cover ASCIT. Next week I will focus on the House system and the role of the IHC, followed by my limited understanding of the academics here. Finally, I'll list all the various sources of information that I think will be useful to those who follow in my footsteps.

No punches pulled, here's what I've envisioned and tried to accomplish.

The role of ASCIT is to bring the school together and to prevent the Balkanization of the Houses through their natural tendencies. Though it may seem odd to some people, the role of ASCIT today is firmly rooted in the existence of the House system and vice versa. The two coexist, and through waxing and waning of both over the decades, the students have always been served well by this coexistence.

The big question for most is then where and how does ASCIT fit in to the House system?

ASCIT holds the potential to damp down the worst flaws of the House system, while allowing the best aspects, through an active IHC, to prosper and flourish. In one facet of their roles, the ASCIT Board of Directors share the primary role of the IHC Chair and Secretary in representing the student body to promote interactions

across House lines and to remind us that in many of the most important ways, we are one, single group of individuals attending school here. This facet is mainly represented through the Social Director, formerly known as the Activities Chair.

What would a successful or Ascendant ASCIT, as I've come to call it, look like? First, the perception of a do-nothing ASCIT will change. This can happen in many ways and in many subtle forms. The biggest item that I've noticed is that when someone claims that ASCIT does nothing, no one has any counter-arguments, especially in certain Houses.

By involving more people in ASCIT, an active group can reach a larger cross-section of the student body and form an actual communications net that cuts across House lines in a meaningful fashion.

Second, more House-blind social events, like the recent ASCIT picnic. Done right, this would lead into a positive feedback loop, where more people attending events leads to a better event that leads to better turnout at the next event. One major thing Mike Woods and I noticed while being IHC Chair was that a large number of people want to reduce House barriers, which is precisely the niche I see filled by an effective ASCIT.

Third, and to me, the most important point, is that when we get together to focus on a goal, we've accomplished great things. ASCIT can be the focal point to do great things in the near future as a student body.

Look at the ASCIT Research Project of the late 60s and early

70s; look at the Student Space Organization of the early and mid 80s. The first raised several hundreds of thousands of dollars from the federal government and philanthropic funds to do basic student-directed research on smog, while the second put a payload on a Space Shuttle mission.

That's what we're capable of, focused on a goal.

If not an effective ASCIT, then what will we live with? As in, what have we experienced these past few years? When ASCIT fails to act in any meaningful way during a year, the sole form of House social interactions are defined by the Houses themselves; that is, you attend as a member of your House interacting with members of other Houses. These interactions are important, but as a piece of the larger whole.

There is an equally important need for events where you can mix and mingle regardless of your House affiliation. We see it every year; freshmen promising to keep up their Frosh Camp friendships, and every year, usually by third

term, these friendships are lost. It is in situations like this that ASCIT is most useful.

There are other times, too, when ASCIT acts but does not do so in a successful manner. Primarily, this case type results in activities that are not as good as they could be; sometimes, they are disasters that would have been better off not happening.

But should we shut down ASCIT when they make these mistakes? I say no, especially when the situation is that they are shaking off the institutional rust of lying dormant for several past incarnations. The role of the IHC and other campus groups in this situation should be to support and encourage ASCIT, not to undercut its efforts.

The possibilities are great, and though the other options are easy, they are disappointing. I ask you to dream a little, though even if you don't, I'm confident that someone will listen eventually. Someone here has time and again.

ellenso! WWW.ELLENSSILKSCREENING.COM
Silkscreening • Embroidery & Promotional Products
626.441.4415 1500 Mission St.
South Pasadena T-Shirts, Sweats, Caps, and over 250,000 promotional items to grab their attention
Bring your student I.D. to receive one FREE large set-up (a \$25 Value)

This week

Monday, May 5:

- Semana Latina Event: Salsa Performance, 12 PM-1 PM, Winnett quad
Angelo Salazar and salsa band Latin Sol will kick off Caltech's 15th annual Semana Latina, organized by Caltech's Latino student organizations.
- International Week Film Screening: Marwa, 8:00-9:15 PM, Beckman Institute auditorium
- ASCIT and IHC meet to discuss the future of ASCIT Friday night dinners, 10:30 PM, Coffeehouse

Tuesday, May 6:

- Semana Latin Event: Mariachi Diva, All-Female Mariachi Band, 12-1 PM, Winnett quad
- Chen-Huang Sustainable Energy Lecture, 8-10 PM, Beckman Auditorium

Wednesday, May 7:

- Semana Latina Event: Peruvian Music and Dance Performance, 12-1 PM, Winnett quad
- International Week Film Screening and Lunch: Korean Treasures-A Virtual Museum, 12-1 PM, second floor of Center for Student Services

Thursday, May 8:

- International Week Event: "Nigeria—At the Trigger of Africa", 12-1 PM, Caltech Y lounge
Caltech sophomore Akin Omigbodun, Nigeria native, will speak. Lunch provided and reservations requested.
- Semana Latina Event: Gustavo Arellano, author of *Ask a Mexican!*, 5-6 PM, Winnett Lounge
- San Gabriel Valley Linux Users Group Monthly Meeting, 7-9 PM, Downs 107
Presenting the BarracudaDrive, a secure Web application server for Linksys NSLU2
- Picturing Slavery Film Series: *The Last Supper*, 7:30-9:00 PM, Downs 107

Friday, May 9:

- Semana Latina Event: Brazilian Samba Music and Dancers, 12-1 PM, Winnett quad
- International Food Fair and Culture Show, 4:30-7:00 PM, Avery Courtyard
Food served from 4:30-6:00 PM costs \$3. Free Culture show follows.
- Fourth Annual Voice Recital, 7-8 PM, Dabney Lounge
Winners of Caltech Opera Club's most recent competition perform.
- Bandorama Concert, 8-10 PM, Ramo Auditorium
Free reception follows. No tickets or reservations required.

Saturday, May 10:

- Bandorama Concert, 8-10 PM, Ramo Auditorium
Free reception follows. No tickets or reservations required.
- Lloyd Interhouse: 9 PM, Lloyd Courtyard

Sunday, May 11:

- Caltech Student Chamber Ensembles: Mother's Day Concert, 3:30-5:30 PM, Dabney Lounge
Free reception follows. No tickets or reservations required.

KELROF 2008

Kellogg's Eighth Light Regiment of Foot announces the 32nd annual KELROF 24-hour relay. The relay will be held on the Caltech track from 8am Saturday May 10 to 8am May 11. Teams of ten members from the Caltech community are welcome to come and run one mile at a time for an entire day of athleticism and camaraderie. No cost to register. Food will be provided. Contact Mark Eichenlaub eichenla@alumni.caltech.edu for more details or to register a team.

Picnic Meeting in the Red Door Tonight; Student Faculty lunches will have fewer requirements.

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes April 30, 2008

Officers Present: Caleb Ng, Zachary Higbee, Joel Nikolaus, Angela Zah, Christopher Watson, Ekta Bhojwani, Matt Czubakowski, Michelle Jiang

Officers Absent: Tzong-Lian 'Will' Tsay

Guests: Mark Eichenlaub, John Hasier, Max Jones, Catherine Jurca, Daniel Lo, Ben McMullen, Sarah Marzen, Noah Tanabe, The *entire* IHC

Call to order: 12:04 ±10 minutes

President's Report:

- Thank you to those helping on the moving, and congratulations to Ekta, Social Team, and Ellen on a successful ASCIT Friday Night event. Please type your Type Indicators

Funding:

- KELROF, a 24 hour run, requests \$1050. \$550 is for T-shirts and \$500 is for other expenses. It has already received significant funding from other sources. Propose to approve funding in full. **VOTE: Approved (6-0-0)**
- Dabney and Ruddock each request \$100 multihouse funding each for a volleyball event/barbecue. Propose to approve funding in full. **VOTE: Approved (6-0-0)**
- Semana Latina (May 5-9) requests \$500. There will be daily activities at noon including a Salsa band, Peruvian dancing, and Brazilian dancing. Propose to approve funding in full. **VOTE: Approved (6-0-0)**

Social:

- Board considers possible dates for a follow up to the ASCIT Friday picnic on May 23, May 30, or June 6, but the IHC requests that such a dinner be first be discussed with representatives from the IHC, Food committee, and House waiters. The meeting will be held on Monday, May 5, in the Coffeehouse at 10:30.
- Team Tech wants to collaborate with ASCIT on an event, possibly a sports barbecue. Its MHF funding will run out at the end of this academic year, so they might also need to request funding. Board The board suggests they become a club.

Take a Professor to Lunch:

- Cathy, who supplements ASCIT's funding for the program, would like to minimize the requirements so students take advantage of the opportunity. She will draft a new form and finalize the details with Angela.

Club Funding:

- The club funding meeting will take place on Sunday, May 11 (1:00-4:30). The appropriate forms will be posted on donut.

Meeting adjourned: 12:35±10 minutes

Submitted by Joel Nikolaus, ASCIT Secretary.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments about the minutes (or meeting). You can email me at joel@caltech.edu or stop by the coffeehouse Monday evenings (10:30 – 11:30 pm) where Caleb Ng will also be hanging out.

Tired of CDS lunches and dinners?

**\$2.00 Burger, Fries, and Drink
EVERYDAY**

for all Caltech students, staff, and faculty

Enjoy The Greatest Happy Hours in the Area.
All Well Drinks, Beer & wine, Monday to Friday
11am-7pm only \$1.99

Burger Continental

535 S. Lake Ave.
Pasadena
(626) 792-6634

Always 20% off for all Caltech students, staff, faculty

Intruction: Ever hear of a cupcakery? Neither did we, until we came across Dots Cupcakes, located on Arroyo Parkway between Del Mar and California Boulevards.

Goal: To indulge in a decadent variety of cupcakes.

Stockroom Options: Each day, Dots has a dozen different cupcake flavors, with the exact selection changing every two days. Depending on when you drop by, you can try anything from Chocolate Lovers' to Piña Colada. The daily selection can be viewed in their honeycomb display. Get there early to have the best selection!

Materials and Cost: There are two different sizes for a Dots cupcake, regular (\$2.75) and mini (\$1.25).

Ranking:

Having trouble choosing a flavor? If you drop by on a Friday or Saturday, here's how we rank six of them.

1. Pumpkin Pie: Even though it's not in season now, this cupcake tasted like it was right from the patch! It was sweet, but not too heavy. All the essential pumpkin pie spices were in the cupcake and on the frosting.

2. Chocolate Mint: The light, not-too-sweet chocolate cupcake base served as a complement to the sweet, fresh mint frosting. The frosting was dotted with small malted chocolate balls, adding another layer of texture.

3. Vanilla Chocolate: The vanilla cupcake almost tasted like a muffin, since it was buttery and dense. The chocolate frosting made up for this in being very rich and creamy.

4. Hostess: As with the other cupcakes, the base was not overly sweet, though the frosting was pleasantly so. Like its namesake, there was a cream filling, though it tasted bland.

5. Vanilla2: As with the previous cupcake, the cupcake itself was relatively

plain, though the frosting was really sweet. Definitely do not get this in the regular size, since the sweetness can be overpowering.

6. Strawberry Shortcake: The strawberry jelly filling was an interesting surprise. However, the cupcake itself tasted very artificial, and was not very enjoyable to eat.

Atmosphere:

Definitely designed for take-out, Dots Cupcakes is a small hole-in-the-wall establishment. One step inside, and the smell of cupcakes overwhelms the senses. There are a lot of windows, making the store feel open and airy. Everything is very bright and colorful, and each cupcake is beautifully displayed.

Conclusion: It's not every day that you see a store specializing in a certain confection. When you do, the expectations are very high. Unfortunately, Dots didn't completely live up to those standards, but it still is a great place to try if that cupcake craving creeps up! They are open Monday through Saturday 10 AM – 7 PM, and you can check them out at www.dotscupcakes.com.

Grade: B
Biocobutter
Carrot
Cookies & Cream
Dulce de Leche
Lemon Drop
Pina Colada
Red Velvet
Strawberry Shortcake
Vanilla Chocolate Chip
Vanilla Chai
Vanilla Lava

Photos by Andrew Freddo

Peanut Butter Planet: Only for Connoisseurs

by natalya kostandova

It's peanut butter jelly time! In a May 2 article published in Science, researchers refine a traditional view of structure of Earth to one that is apparently more scientifically correct and, undoubtedly, more delicious. The researchers now believe that some of the components constituting our pretty little oblate spheroid are somewhat squishy and resemble nothing other than good old peanut butter.

After an initial and natural impulse to conclude that scientists are on crack, I decided that this view is actually more pleasant and exciting, although potentially dangerous, than the traditional view of Earth with its mantle, core, and all of that. After all, peanut butter is delicious, nutritious, and very much resembles a bumpy ocean of heavenly goodness. Not to mention the happiness with which we, humanoids, could adapt one of the exciting peanut butter songs as our anthem (even with my short attention span I was able to find five such songs in a course of a 40 second search).

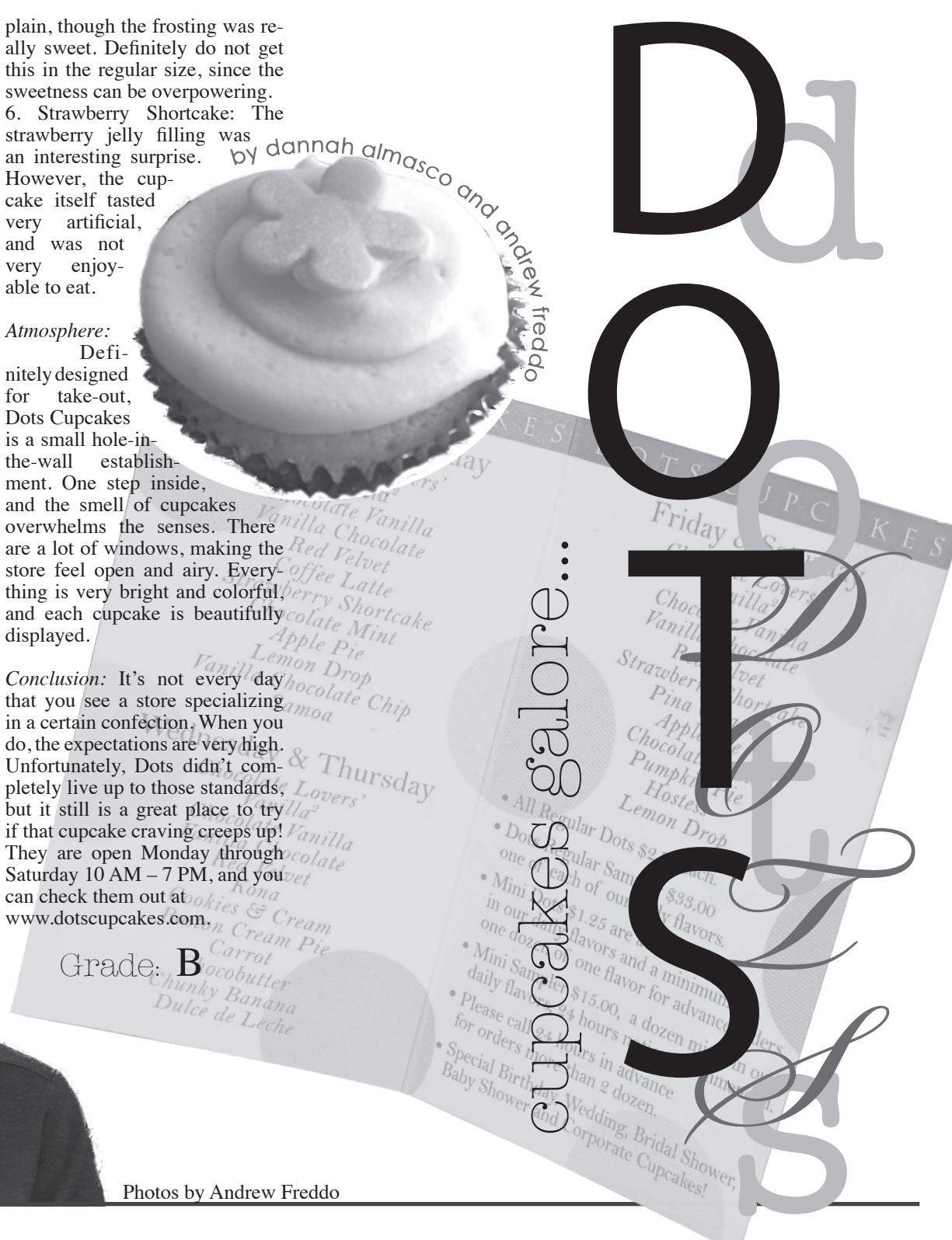
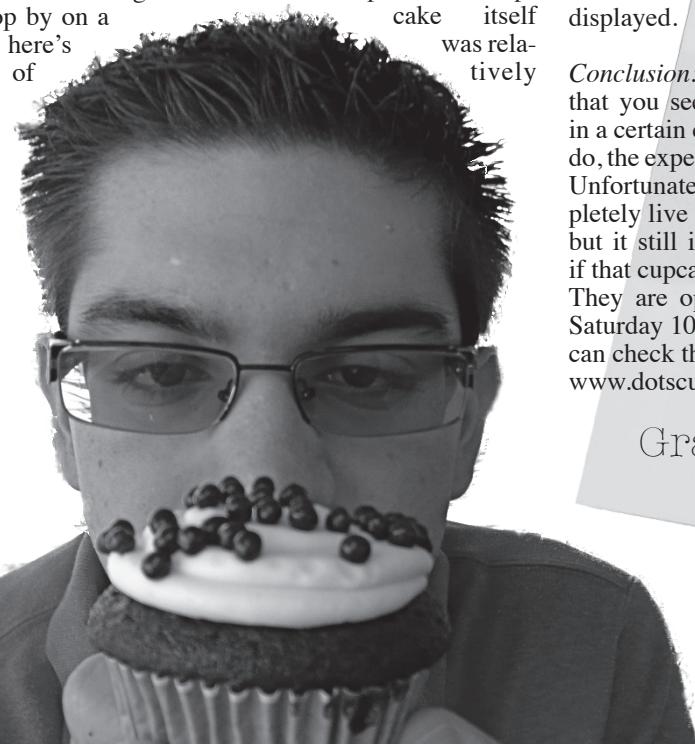
The peanut butter comparison comes from a discovery of two dense piles, each hundreds of kilometers thick, one positioned under the Pacific and another below Africa and the Atlantic. The two blobs consist of a solid rock that, under specific conditions, becomes soft like peanut butter.

In addition to this delectable chunk of our planet, scientists also discovered that the mantle is more variable than believed. Lacking a better comparison, or possibly

just very hungry, researchers describe the mantle as a pot of boiling water with a jar of honey dumped into it (jar itself not included). The honey equivalent in our planet's mantle has a behavior that differs from that of the bubbly water equivalent, and accounts for a more complicated system than assumed before.

This peanut butter-honey portrayal certainly makes the Earth more appealing and lovable. Although there probably are not too many things that can benefit from its scrumptuousness, unless there is a giant planet-eating beast shaped like an overgrown, mutated, radiation-infused hamster. Which is possible, of course, although undesirable, seeing as an existence of such a creature would give a rise to a possibility that the human kind as well as all other inhabitants of the Earth will come to an unexpectedly short and gruesome end in the tummy of the creature.

Morals:
Scientists are crazy
Scientists are hungry
Research on an empty stomach = disaster
Peanut butter is delicious
Honey floating in a pot of boiling water is a bit weird
If one gets hungry, Earth has a solution
Overgrown, mutated, radiation-infused hamsters are creepy. And possibly deadly.
Earth is delicious. Nyam nyam nyam.



Treating Africa's Biggest Diseases

SYMPOSIUM TARGETED AIDS, MALARIA RESEARCH

by wesley yu

Researchers, primary care workers, educators, and students came together on Saturday to share their experiences fighting disease. The Geanco Foundation Symposium on African Health, held in Ramo auditorium, brought together experts from diverse fields, all fighting for a common cause—ridding the world of deadly disease.

The symposium was organized by two Caltech graduate students, Kenneth Yu and Chess Stetson, and Afam Onyema of the GEANCO Foundation, a non-profit humanitarian organization. A little over one hundred people attended the symposium.

"I think it's a great turnout," said Stetson. "We're also planning to use the internet to broadcast this program to a huge audience. Hopefully, we can really make difference by educating people." According to the program's website, the full broadcast will be available this Tuesday.

Asked about the purpose of the conference, Yu said, "We're trying to put together researchers, clinicians, and primary care workers so that we can learn from each other. This is the first step towards increasing awareness and education."

Originally, the program was going to be broadcast by teleconference with doctors in Nigeria, but because of some logistical issues, conferences with Nigerians will be held later in the year.

The battle against AIDS is not one just fought in the biology laboratory. Researchers are using

computer programs to raise AIDS awareness in an attempt to overcome its social stigma in many developing countries. Speaker Piya Sorcar, a graduate student at Stanford, helped develop a computer application that uses animated avatars to deliver information about AIDS that learners might find difficult to talk about with others.

"We wanted to maximize both comfort and efficacy through our application," said Sorcar. "By learning from anonymous animated characters, students feel more comfortable with the subject."

Sorcar's program is available for free online and is being studied for use in India and Africa.

A Huntington Hospital physician spoke about a program she spearheaded seven years ago that brings doctors from the US to Tanzania to teach future health-care workers in Africa, as well as bringing aid to HIV patients. Dr. Kimberly Shriner, founder and director of the Phil Simon AIDS Clinic, remembered some of her African patients during her talk.

"I think we've learned much more from the people in Africa than we've taught them," said Shriner. "They have this amazing fortitude and spirit. They've taught us about humanity. It's about working together as a global community."

Asked what she wanted Caltech students to take away from the symposium, Dr. Shriner said, "Be educated, be creative. Everyone can do something. You don't have to be a doctor or scientist. All you need is a desire to make a difference."

Professor David Baltimore, nobel laureate and Caltech's president emeritus, gave the keynote address. He spoke about the most current research on a vaccine for AIDS and about the importance of scientists in the fight against the disease.

"HIV is a huge killer in the developing world and is the most important disease to be working on right now," Professor Baltimore said. His research uses gene therapy to combat HIV.

The other half of the conference

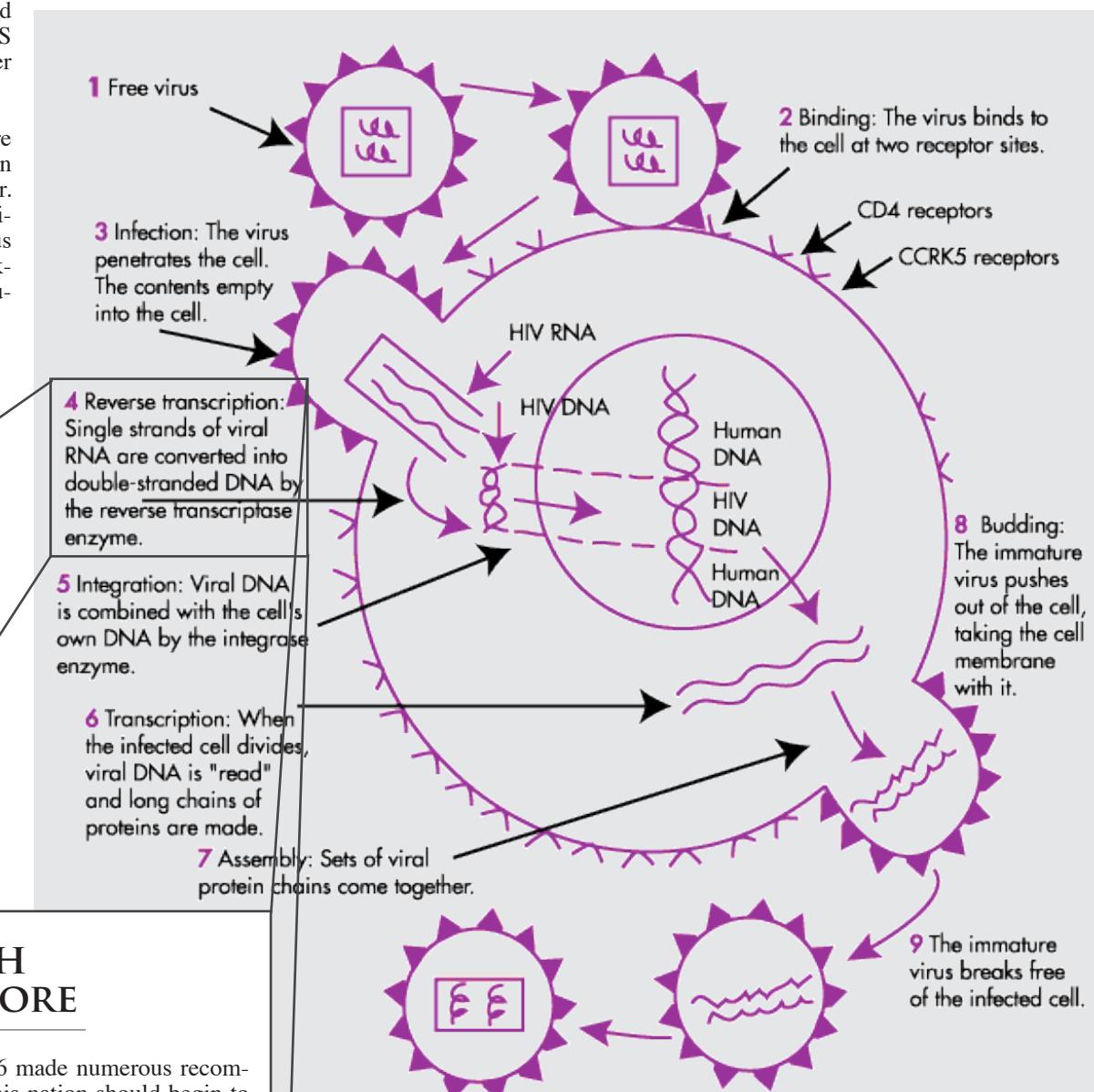
focused primarily on the burden of malaria in Africa. Dr. Joel Breman of the NIH Fogarty International Center discussed the social and economic impact of the disease on developing nations.

"The situation is still very grim, but I want to leave you with a little bit of hope. People are beginning to see that this is an important issue and aid from the Gates Foundation, the World Bank, and the US President's Initiative is starting to make a big difference," Dr. Breman told the audience.

Caltech Professor Bruce Hay spoke about his innovative approach to eradication of malaria. By genetically modifying mosquitoes, Professor Hay's lab believes that the spread of malaria can be halted.

"Basically, malaria is a huge pain in the ass. So we want to solve this problem."

<http://www.caltechafrica.com>



A CONVERSATION WITH PROFESSOR DAVID BALTIMORE

Q: Dr. Baltimore, how did you get started in this field and why did you choose to work on AIDS?

A: I really didn't choose AIDS. It chose me. And what I mean by that is that I wasn't initially focused on the disease. In 1970, we discovered the reverse transcriptase. The reverse transcriptase, at the time, had only been found in benign viruses or cancer inducing viruses.

But then in 1979, the first cases of a strange immunodeficiency disease appeared, and by the early 80's HIV was being diagnosed largely by assays for reverse transcriptase. Having won the Nobel Prize by that time for discovery of reverse transcriptase, I became heavily involved in AIDS research.

Q: Besides your research, how else did you become active in the fight against AIDS?

A: Well, in 1985, I co-chaired the Committee on National Strategy for AIDS. The re-

port we issued in 1986 made numerous recommendations for how this nation should begin to confront AIDS both through research and public policy.

One recommendation we made that I still think is important is that virologists have to get involved in this effort. At the time, many of the best virologists were saying, "AIDS isn't my area." And there are a lot of reasons they were saying that, some of the sociological.

Actually, that's when I said to myself, I have to get involved. And that's what I did.

Q: You mentioned that scientists have a lot to contribute to the fight against this disease. Do you think that scientists have a moral obligation to use their knowledge to improve the human condition?

A: Absolutely. I think we do have that obligation. I think it's a shame that some of the very best virologists didn't jump on the chance to fight AIDS, initially. It really is our responsibility to tackle these human problems.

Image courtesy of EngenderHealth.org
Above: How Professor Baltimore's discovery revolutionized HIV research.

Bylaws murky, division of duties unclear

UASH, FROM PAGE 1

larger problem with outdated resolutions according to Ng. As it is, Resolution XX states that nominations for the extra committee be delegated to ASCIT, rather than the IHC. However, Watson disagreed that the resolutions were necessarily outdated.

The IHC's resolutions and definition are also out of date, frequently referring to seven houses. For example, they are missing resolution VI, which establishes the undergraduate committee supervisor, and makes numerous references to the seven houses. The IHC itself is a body created by ASCIT in Resolution V, and according to IHC minutes, is also funded by ASCIT.

According to Craig Montuori, former IHC Chair, the last time

the IHC and ASCIT disputed a major nomination was in 2003, when the "active" Ted Jou was ASCIT president; Montuori says there's no question that the current ASCIT is proactive.

This year, ASCIT has instituted Honor keys and provided an ASCIT Picnic, neither of which occurred last year. In Caleb's candidacy statement, he wrote, "[...] critical to government's role is a proactive approach." ASCIT is also looking into an undergraduate Bioengineering option and pushing for the creation of a campus center. "I think it's important to note that ASCIT is doing things to try and improve the school, and it's a shame that certain members of the IHC would rather tear that down than try and make them done well," said Montuori.

What to look out for this week

Sophomore Brandon Hensley appears on **Jeopardy** on Monday night. He will win at least \$5,000 but could go on to get the \$100,000 first prize by the end of the week.

At Monday's Faculty Board meeting, the suggestion of **3-unit student-taught classes** will come to a vote. Senior Mike Woods pushed the idea with the support of Dean John Hall. Possible course ideas include learning Linux or how to construct inter-house parties.

The **Phoenix Mars Lander** will touch down near the polar cap of Mars, according to a brief Directory email last week, and the landing will be broadcast at Beckman Auditorium on Sunday, May 25.



Like photos, but hate writing?

Love reporting, but can't use a camera?

It's cool, we're *flexible*.

Join us at Broad Cafe
Mondays and Fridays
from 12 - 1 PM.

FIRE'S CFN
CAMPUS FREEDOM NETWORK

Learn how to defend your free speech rights at FIRE's Summer Conference from June 26 - 28. Register at thecfn.org.

Unlike your meal plan, this conference is free.



Mex, Hoagies, Philly Steaks, Pizza and Pasta

Plus try our Alligator, Kangaroo, and Turtle items

CALTECH STUDENTS NIGHT

Sundays Happy Hour 5pm-9pm

All Draft Beer \$1.49 &

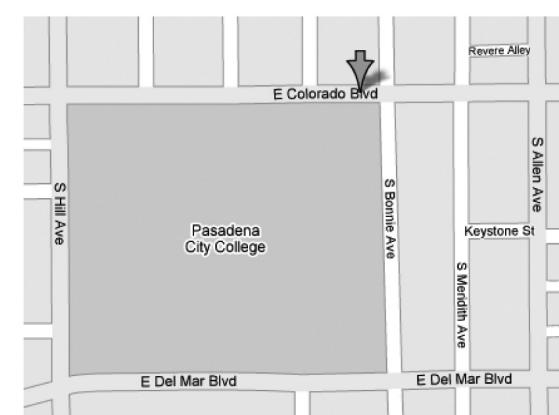
20% OFF any regular menu price item w/student ID

For info about our 99¢ Corona nights and more specials visit us at

[LOTIMES.COM](#)

AND REMEMBER DON'T PRESS THE RED BUTTON

1655 E. Colorado across from PCC



When you're done with midterms, consider writing for *The Tech*.

(It's like a hum paper, but more gossipy.)

Sports Briefs

Senior almost qualifies for nationals

Senior Rene Davis fell 115 points short of qualifying for the NCAA Division III nation heptathlon competition at the CMS class multi-event meet last weekend.

Davis scored 3,985 points over the weekend and needed 4,100 to qualify.

"I was really, really close the last time, it was a matter of me not doing well on the long jump," she said. "I know I can do it. I get better every time I [compete]."

However, she hasn't given up hope of becoming the first Caltech heptathlete to qualify for nationals. Two qualifying meets still remain in Riverfalls, WI on May 11-12 and Pella, IA May 13-14.

However, funding issues may prevent Davis from travelling to a qualifying meet, she said. There may not be enough money in the budget for Davis to pursue her national competition dreams.

At the same event, junior Zach Higbee vaulted ahead of several other Caltech athletes to take the no. 2 spot on the all-time decathlon list.

Davis set personal bests in the 200m run (27.22s) and 800m run (2:31), and moved into second and fourth places on the school all-time lists, respectively. Higbee leapt

into the vaulted halls of athletic greatness with his sprinting and jumping events. A pole-vaulter by specialty, he improved his personal best to 13' 1.5" and moved into seventh on the Caltech list.

Last inning ground out ends baseball comeback

With its first NCAA victory of the season in sight, the Beavers suffered a disappointing 8-7 loss to La Sierra on April 27.

Senior Manuel Godoy grounded out with two outs to end the Beaver's hopes. Caltech had rallied with two runs to pull within one, but stranded two runners on base.

Seeking revenge for their 23-3 loss on Feb. 15, Caltech's NCAA home opener, the Beavers improved significantly from their previous outing. However, the Golden Eagles used a four-run seventh inning to put the game out of reach.

Following three straight losses to Occidental, Caltech closed this season with a winless 0-27 record, including 0-21 in SCIAC.



Senior Rene Davis struggles to catch Whittier competitor Rosario Rios-Aguilar in the 800 meter event of the heptathlon. She fell just 115 points short of the 4,100 required to qualify for the NCAA Division III national championships. While qualifying meets remain, budget problems may keep her from traveling to future qualifying meets.

photo courtesy of gocaltech.com



First year graduate student Imogen Pryce plays defense against her Claremont opponent during Caltech's 11-9 win on Friday.



The Weekly Scoreboard

May 2

Baseball vs. Occidental
Women's Frisbee vs. CMS

L 20-6
W 11-9

May 3

Baseball @ Occidental

L 21-2
L 11-0

7				1		4	6	
	8		4	2		5		
					9			
	1	9				7		3
3								6
4		8				1	2	
			6					
		5		4	2		9	
	9	4		5				7

Comics

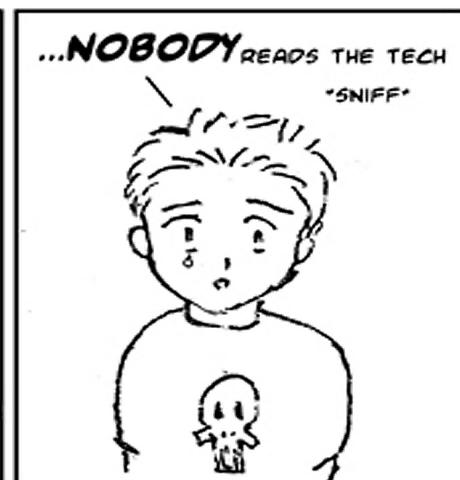
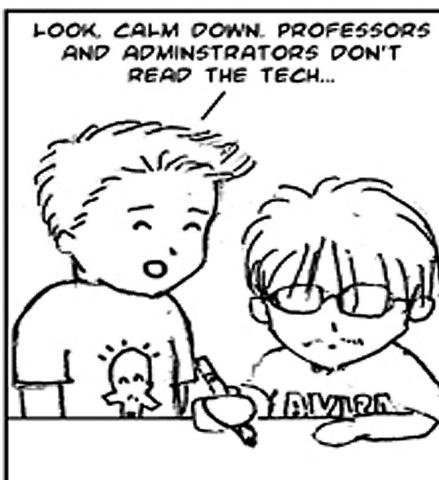
Comics: \$5

please email all comics to caltechcomics@gmail.com

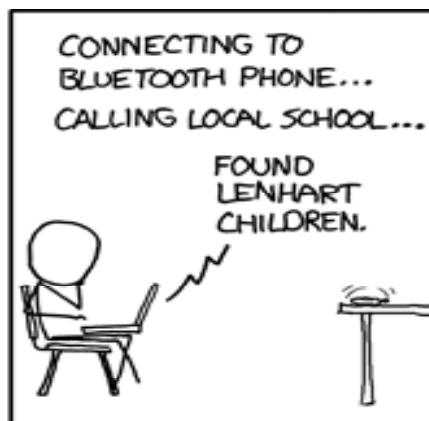
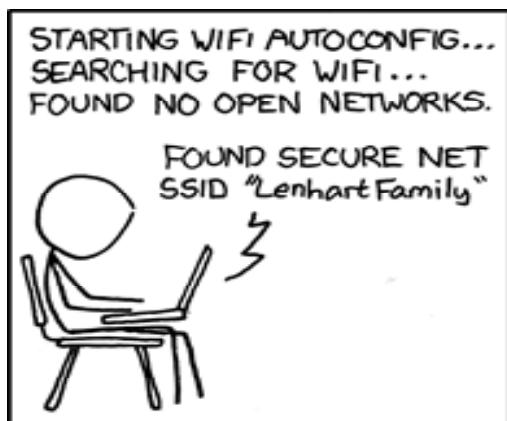
Good Comics: \$15



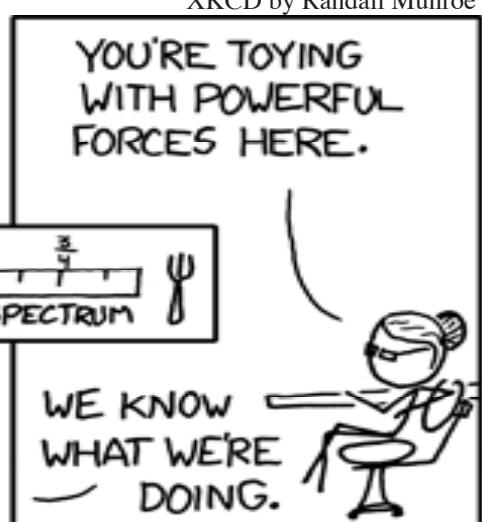
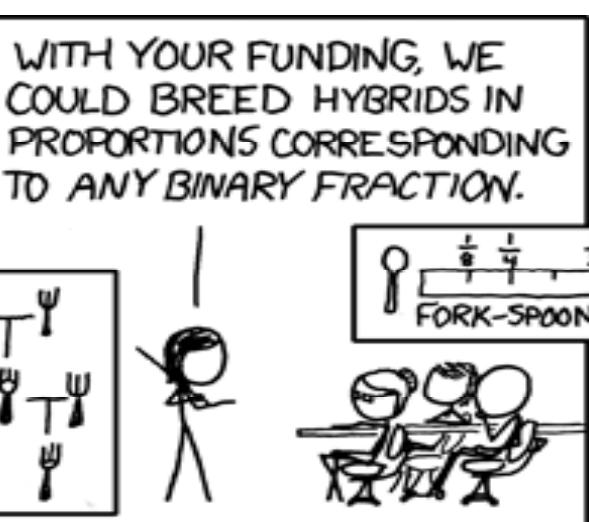
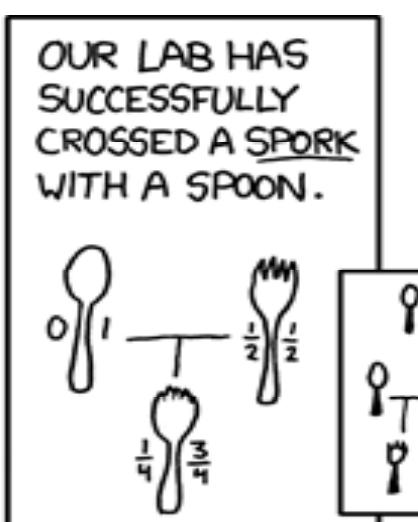
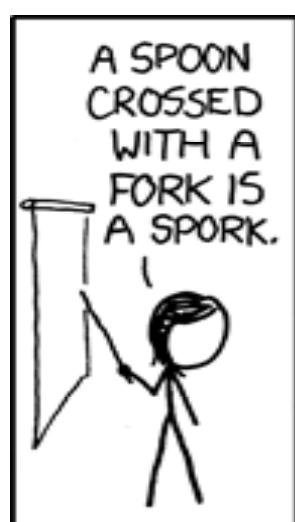
Crippling Depression by Tim Wan, Mike Yeh, Ben Lee



Crippling Depression by Tim Wan, Mike Yeh, Ben Lee



XKCD by Randall Munroe



XKCD by Randall Munroe

The California

Tech

Caltech 400-588
Pasadena, CA 911125