

Caltech NCAA Sports May Be Cut-Students Revolt!

BY: CRAIG MONTUORI

In breaking news, the Provost's office is looking into eliminating Caltech's NCAA program. This surprise came during Thursday's IHC lunch meeting with Margo Marshak. About half of the meeting was taken up with a Q&A session with Sharon Borbon, Assistant to the Provost for Faculty Administration, who was trying to find out how the students feel about the school's NCAA program. She said that there are issues with the local Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) due to an increased emphasis on competitiveness, leading to strains with how Caltech looks at its athletic program. In questioning the IHC, Sharon Borbon stated that she was unexperienced with working with students since her job was focused

around communicating with faculty. The IHC recommended that she talk with the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC), which represents the Caltech NCAA teams to a national level and is currently chaired by Christine Parry, at the local level, and Helen Tai, at the regional level.

One of the main points in Caltech's athletic program is that anyone can play at any level that they're willing to put the time and interest into. This is touted to the prefresh, and it is a big perk to those students that have to spend hours nightly not practicing, but on homework sets. The administration has only begun to look into this, but the IHC suggested that they will find stiff opposition from anyone involved with athletics at Caltech. The administration believes that this is an area that can be cut in the name of sav-

ing money, but student and staff reaction is of surprise and shock. Fencing coach Randy Paffenroth said, "This is news to me. I hadn't heard anything about this."

Joey Koehler, formerly of the basketball team and current President of Blacker House, decided to further investigate the issue. He has scheduled a meeting with Sharon Borbon for Monday at 4 pm at the Provost's office at 206 Parsons-Gates. He says, "At the meeting Thursday, I am not sure we came across as strongly as we should have in opposition to dropping the NCAA membership. I have a few more questions about how much the NCAA membership costs, and the other reasons as to why they were considering changing Caltech's status. I wanted to relate a few student's personal stories with the sports programs, and try to sum-

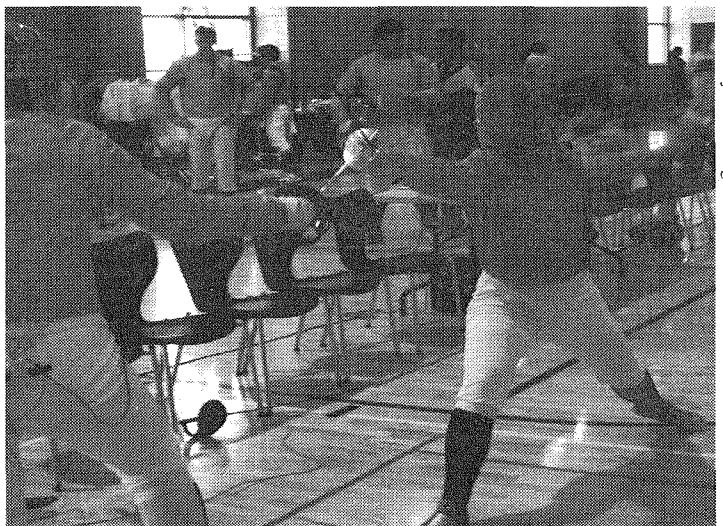


Photo by Glenn Wagner

The Caltech Fencing Team--an NCAA sport--which successfully won their latest tournament. See page 11 for full story.

marize some of the input I have been getting from some friends." Any additional thoughts should be sent to tech@caltech.edu, who

will forward them to Joey. The Tech will be covering this issue as it continues to develop over the coming weeks.

Caltech Chess Team Wins Again

BY: ZEB ROCKLIN

While the rest of Caltech was enjoying the blissful unconsciousness that students expect from their Saturday mornings, the battle lines had already been drawn in San Pedro. Teams from across the western United States had gathered to compete in the US Amateur Team West Chess Championship. The event drew hundreds of players and several very strong teams, but Caltech walked away with the title.

Teams consisted of four chess players with an average rating below master level. Players were not allowed to help their teammates, but each game result contributed to the final match score equally. The tournament was played in six rounds of six-hour games over President's day weekend. The winners of the event go on to play against teams from the American East, South, and Midwest Championships.

Caltech's Chess Club, which meets Fridays at 8 PM in Page House, is a thriving community where players of all levels are welcome. In addition to the team

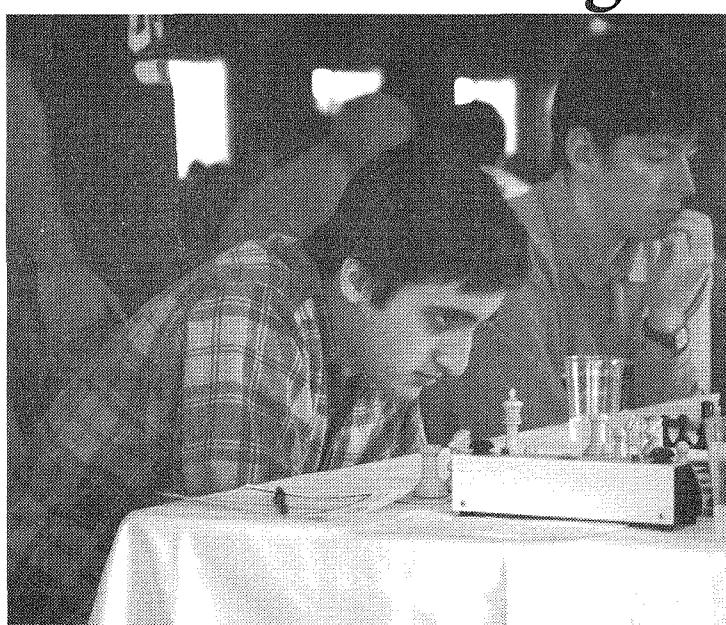


Photo courtesy of Patrick Hammel

Team members deliberate carefully before their next moves.

representing Caltech at Amateurs, the club boasts several other experts and strong players. Caltech players have done well at many strong tournaments, including beating MIT twice in internet chess matches.

Caltech's team has dominated

Amateurs in particular for the last four years. Caltech's team from 2003, "CALTECHnically Won", earned its name by winning the Amateur West and going on to win the National Team Championship.

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Cahill's Architecture Explained

BY: JOSEPHINE SUH

Thom Mayne, a professor at the U.C.L.A. School of Arts and Architecture and a founder of the firm Morphosis, gave a presentation on the design of the Cahill Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics in Beckman Auditorium on Feb. 21.

The building, described by President Baltimore as a dream come true of "bringing together astronomers and astrophysicists, providing a home for some of

the most creative, audacious scientists in the world," was conceived about a year and a half ago, and is funded primarily through a \$20 million dollar gift from Charles H. Cahill, given as part of the "There's only one. Caltech," campaign. Its construction is scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2008.

Professor Mayne, a renowned architect and recipient of the prestigious Pritzker Prize, is principal architect of the project. His past work includes the

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CalTrans headquarters in downtown L.A. and the Federal Office Building in San Francisco. Morphosis, his firm, is currently in charge of building an Olympic Village in New York for the 2012 games.

According to Professor Mayne, one of the highest priorities in designing Cahill was to preserve the harmonious relationship between the campus landscape and existing buildings, as well as between

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Prank-crazed Todd leads a group of Lloydies in a military coup on MIT.

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Newest Building on Campus Will Emphasize Space

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the campus and the residential buildings nearby. "What I admire about the campus is its hybridized nature," he said.

In keeping with the low-scale environment, windows on the two floors elevated above ground will be horizontal, and the building's exterior will most likely be covered with terracotta-like material. In addition, two layers of trees will be planted around its sides to "convey a neutral language." The top stories will reside above an entirely transparent ground floor and below it will be installed a basement that is designed to let in maximum sunlight for its laboratories.

The most prominent feature of Cahill is a stairway space in the shape of a telescope that needles through all the floors and opens up at the roof. It will flood the floors with natural

light, and the adjacent areas will serve as lounges where interdisciplinary communication and scientific collaboration is encouraged. A total of ten research groups will move into Cahill at its completion.

Along with the "skybound stairspace," continuous walkways described as "stitches" by Mayne, will pierce through the building, but from back to front. As a result, its residents will be provided with a continuous view of the landscape and main campus across California Boulevard.

In designing the numerous office spaces that are to be occupied by professors, post-docs and graduate students, Mayne said he attempted to take into account the individualistic nature of the people would be working in them. The offices break into irregular edges

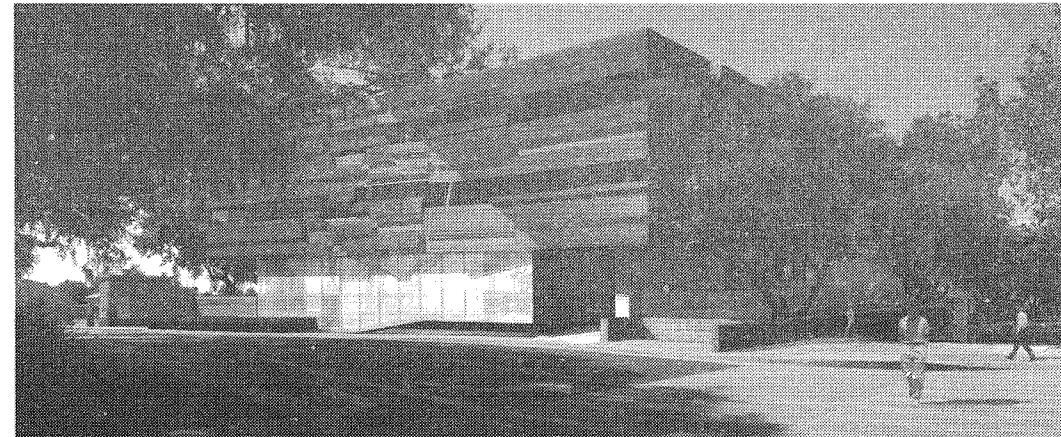
along the outer surface of the building, giving each of them a unique shape.

During the Q and A session that followed Professor Mayne's presentation, several graduate students expressed concern with the structure of

their offices in the building. A physics student predicted that accommodating 3-5 students in each graduate office would prove a "distraction," and said what is currently lacking "are not communication spaces but quiet places to study." It was

also pointed out that the same offices will not have doors, and would not be sufficiently shielded from the noise outside.

(More information, including images of the Cahill Center design, can be found online at <http://cahill.caltech.edu>.)



A view of the new Cahill Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics.

Photo courtesy of cahill.caltech.edu

Letters to the Editors - Because We Want You to Write

Apache: Who's really to blame?

As all of you faithful readers of the Tech are now aware, Rickets Hovse's annual Interhovse party, Apache, was shut down last Saturday for the first time in its 70+-year history. Blame has been leveled in all directions for what, under close examination, was not one error, but a comedy of them. Safety could have gotten the proper permits for the party, or insisted on a different venue. Social Team could have asked more questions about the party's legal status. The two hospitalised Pageboys could have avoided drinking themselves into oblivion. Any one of these steps could have allowed this year's Apache to last into the morning, like those of years gone by.

So in a perfect world, these are the expectations we would have had of all of the people and organisations involved. But which of these expectations are reasonable? In the current climate of administrative foul-ups, miscommunications and ball-dropping, disappointed students are rushing to blame the Safety office. Certainly, if the people in Safety had insisted on the letter of the law, we would have been throwing a perfectly legal party and the Fire Marshal would have had no reason to end the event. But is that what we really want?

The Caltech I remember places the ultimate value on personal responsibility. Students are trusted to behave safely and honourably, and to display responsibility and integrity in matters academic and non-. In return, the administration grants us the freedom to do what's right in any given situation, not what's stipulated by a lengthy legalistic code of conduct.

The administration of late has been straying from this decades-old agreement, and we have been fighting them every step of the way. Housing paints over offensive murals because the law holds that students must not feel threatened or harassed in their homes. We chastise them for being unreasonable, and imposing an external solution to an internal problem, without giving us a chance to resolve it ourselves. Campus Life says that some of our usual Rotation activities need to be toned

down, lest new students interpret them as hazing. We ask them to be lenient, and to trust that the students have enough integrity to see these activities as a fun and optional way to bond with their classmates, rather than as grounds for an easy-money lawsuit.

So why are we now telling our Safety office to regard the letter of the law with more respect than its spirit? Is this what any of us really want? With all due respect, I think that those who say it is are being remarkably shortsighted. It's awfully tempting to use the administration as a scapegoat when things go wrong.

I will admit that at 11:50pm on the 18th, when I was told that the Fire Marshal, the paramedics, and Tim Chang were waiting for me upstairs and wanted to shut down our party, the first words out of my mouth were "This is outrageous! Why didn't Safety take care of this? Isn't that their job?" And according to the letter of the law, it is. But Safety has another job: maintaining the sensitive balance between the kind of fun we like to have and our personal safety. This is why they are called Safety, and not the Campus Fire Marshal Liaison Office. They are here to make sure we're safe, and I for one am happiest when they regard their duties as liaisons to city, state, and federal emergency services as secondary to their purpose here.

Here are the facts: We were throwing a party that could not possibly have simultaneously adhered to the traditional construction methods and met all of the Pasadena city fire codes. Safety did everything in their power, not to make sure that the Fire Marshal came through and looked at everything and declared it up to code, but... wait for it... to make sure that it was SAFE. My social co-VP, Chelsea Sharon, and I, along with members of our social team, had endless discussions with Safety, Physical Plant, and the RA to make sure that we had plans for dealing with emergency situations. Our constructed tunnel through the Satellite Plant machine room had three exits, including a punch-out emergency exit, and was lit with heat-insulated LED "candles" and attended by a frosh who knew how to operate both the punch-out exit and a fire extinguisher. Our temporary walls upstairs, as mentioned by Arturo in his article last week,

"We were throwing a party that could not possibly have simultaneously adhered to the traditional construction methods and met all of the Pasadena city fire codes."

were expressly and deliberately designed to be easily removed in the event of an emergency, opening up the entire 40-foot-wide car park ramp as an evacuation route.

Each of our "rooms" upstairs had at least two exits even while the walls were in place, and we had health ads and Security on hand, as well as a large group of Rickets students who were committed to remaining sober throughout the night and assisting Security in maintaining orderly, safe conditions. I can tell you in complete confidence, as I told the Fire Marshal, that we threw a safe party.

Throwing a legal party, it transpires, would have been a lot different. Because of the size of the guest list, a permit would have had to be sought from the City of Pasadena. As part of the permit process, all construction would have had to be completed sufficiently far in advance to allow the city Fire Marshal to perform a walk-through and declare everything to be code-compliant. According to the Fire Marshal himself, no matter how safe our construction was, the parking structure would never have been approved as a party location, because it was not constructed as a venue for public gatherings.

So what did we want, here? Should we pillory the entire Safety office for not forcing us to hold our party in Dabney Hall, with no construction, no room dividers,

lights on for safety, and no tunnel entry? Wouldn't we have been awfully upset if they HAD tried to insist on those conditions? Wouldn't we have accused them of "not understanding," or of "trying to kill Apache?" So why are they still catching it in the hind-parts from all of us for letting the situation go the other way? If we want the administration to listen to us, we had better be consistent in our requests.

What happened is really regrettable. As a result of an unfortunate chain of events, hundreds of happy party-goers were tossed out in the rain, and thousands of dollars and months of work were wasted. Plenty of that work was mine, and yes, most certainly, I feel cheated and angry. But blaming the Safety office for doing exactly what we wanted them to do is not going to make things right. A better argument could be made for blaming the two kids from Page who drank themselves sick and brought the Fire Marshal down on us. They shouldn't have done that. It was silly and irresponsible of them, and it was silly and irresponsible of Mr. Lanman's friends, once the damage was done, to leave him to collapse flat on his face in the mud in front of Dispatch.

I hope that many of us can learn from this fellow's mistakes, and their very visible consequences. But when it comes down to it, we did the best we could to make Apache happen the way it has always happened, and Safety did the best they could too. Tragically, this time it backfired, and we got shut down. But if this means that future Interhovse events must be constructed with more attention paid to fire codes than to the safety of the students who attend, then Apache isn't the only thing that died Saturday night. This will have marked the end of an era.

-Chandra Barnett, former Rickets Hovse Social VP

Committee Ignored in Past

Your article "Dean Currie Encourages Involvement Without Vigilantism" (February 21, 2006) mentioned the Computing Advisory Committee. According to ex officio member and CIO Rich Fagen, the last time the full committee met was Dec. 2003. Faculty and ex officio members

have told me that the committee stopped meeting because administrators were not listening. They are right.

The decision to merge ATC and ITS was announced to, not made by, the Computing Advisory Committee. There was no meeting and very little consulting. Only a few of the faculty members were told. To this day, member Prof. Barry Simon wonders when there will be a meeting, despite a three month old memo announcing a meeting would happen soon.

It is unclear who is at fault for the present lack of meetings. Chair Prof. Stephen Mayo is responsible for calling meetings. I am presently trying to talk to him though he is quite busy. However, he is right to not bother us with pointless committee meetings if administrators will not listen.

The committee is not meeting due to past problems. I want to start meeting again and have talked to committee members and to Vice President Currie. We need to know administrators will listen and be honest about claiming to consult the committee. Hopefully, Vice President Currie and Provost Jennings will make that promise.

-Kenneth Heafield
Member, Computing Advisory Committee

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Campus Filming Interferes with Dabney Party

But Few Complaints Overall

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we established the on-site rep position, we have not received any further complaints."

Normally for a film or television feature, Caltech charges \$9,500 per day or \$5,000 for five hours or less. For that price, the filming company is entitled to film at either one interior location and one exterior or three exteriors.

For a commercial photo shoot, Caltech collects \$4,000 per day, or \$2,000 for five hours or less. According to Nash, these revenues are then split with the divisions and departments whose buildings are used for filming.

However, what price are students and faculty paying for the disruption?

Thus far, other than the aforementioned complaints and the rescheduling of the Drop Day party, inconveniences to the Caltech community appear to be low.

"I personally don't find [the filming] very disruptive," wrote Kranski. "If anything, it's somewhat entertaining to see all the film crews set up and working around campus. So long as the crews understand that this is a

school first and their shooting location second, which they do seem to get, I have no problem with it."

To ensure that Caltech's primary purpose is a school and not a filming location, limits are placed on the amount of filming which can occur.

"In accordance with the City of Pasadena Film Office, Caltech is allowed to accommodate six shoot days per calendar quarter," wrote Nash.

As a perk of having filming take place on campus, many students are sometimes asked to participate in the filming. For example, a group of

Pageboys made their way into a major motion picture by playing the part of a fraternity in the opening scenes of *Legally Blonde*, and Caltech students often appear briefly on television as extras in the show *Numb3rs*.

Thus, while Caltech and Hollywood appear to be universes apart in character, the two coincide for a brief moment on television or on the big screen. So far this relationship has been mutually favorable, although as Dabney's experience has shown, conflicts are inevitable and compromises will have to be made.

"As a perk of having filming take place on campus, many students are sometimes asked to participate in the filming."

Houses. "There was no choice...it had to be done, but the students took an unusual approach."

Emphasizing that the North Houses also need to go through renovation and perhaps reconstruction, she said that she faces reluctance from both the administration and the student body in proceeding with the project. While the administration is afraid to make the necessary financial commitments, the students' unfavorable reaction to the South House renovations does not bode well for it either.

As another example of distrust on the part of students, Ms. Marshak mentioned incidents of students discouraging prospective Techers from attending Caltech during pre-frosh weekend. "Why would the students act against their own interests in such a way?" she asked.

On the general state of student life at Caltech, Ms. Marshak said, "Constructive outlets are important. An activity like music, especially at a place [like Caltech] where the huge workload makes an enormous impact, is important. I'm not saying that extra-curricular activities should come before academics...but we should have more activity space, for example, for the music rehearsals." She expressed her wish that the administration would pay more attention to the undergraduate experience at the Institute, particularly with respect to allotting "budgets outside the classroom."

When asked how she envisions Tech life in the future, Ms. Marshak answered, "A new president will bring significant changes... there is a lot of uncertainty in the future. I hope [the new president] will put a priority on student life and improves relationships between the students and the administration," she said.

Chess Team Faces Tough Competition

Continued from page 1

In 2004, "Patrick Hummel and a Hat Trick of Pummelers" made history by becoming the first team to become national champions twice in a row, prompting International Master Jack Peters to declare, "Baseball fans scream about the New York Yankees, but chess players yearn to break up Caltech."

In 2005 he got his wish, as Caltech lost to Peters and his USC team in the final round, finishing an impressive, but perhaps disappointing third. With their victory this last President's Day weekend, Caltech proved that they can still make history. The current team of Patrick Hummel, Eugene Yanayt, Zhihao (Howard) Liu, and Josh Gutman, all seniors, was the favorite to take the championship. While the team was composed of the same members that represented Caltech last year, they had improved substantially, and held the highest average rating in the tournament, 2196.8. Still, of the 46 teams participating, several were of comparable strength, and anything was possible.

With all the talent present, spirits were justifiably high going into the first round. However, the team had a rough day one. Using the standard method of chess pairing Caltech should not have been paired with any other strong teams until later rounds. However, due to an error by the tournament director, they were paired with a fairly strong team in the first round. Fortunately, Caltech was up to the challenge, and defeated their opponents 4-0.

In the second round, they were paired with a team composed of under-age and under-rated chess prodigies. Caltech battled into the night, working hard while the campus struggled desperately to

re-achieve unconsciousness at Apache. Caltech finally emerged with a close victory, one game away from a loss.

Playing chess for nearly every waking hour (and perhaps some extra waking hours) takes its toll, and it seemed as if Caltech was already struggling. Despite winning both his games, Yanayt was pessimistic after the first day: "But after today, I'm not so sure [that we will win] anymore... If we are to win this tournament, I know I'll have to play a lot better when I'm facing masters."

Sunday, Caltech got its chance for revenge against USC, the team which knocked them out of the running last year. They did not squander it, defeating the team optimistically-named "We're USC... Trophy Please?" 3.5 to .5. Their other match that day was another victory over another

Meet the Chess Team

Hummel is president and cofounder of the Caltech chess club. A former national high school champion, Hummel has won many honors over the chessboard and currently holds the title of FIDE master (FIDE being the international chess federation). Hummel faced tough opposition on board one, drawing Grandmaster Lombardy and defeating International Master Jack Peters, the only two players at the event rated higher than him. This is his third year participating in Amateurs.

Eugene Yanayt '06 is another cofounder of the chess club. During his time here, he achieved the title of national master. Representing Caltech on board two, he went undefeated (four wins and two draws) on his way to winning his board prize. He has represented Caltech in this tournament for four years.

Zhihao (Howard) Liu '06 is a chess expert. This is his fourth year representing Caltech at this tournament. Liu had some tough competition on board three, all but one of his opponents were higher rated than he was, one by some two hundred points. Despite this, he won more games than he lost.

Josh Gutman '06 was Caltech's strong board four. Gutman studies hard and goes to more tournaments than the rest of the club combined. It's certainly paid off—his rating has more than doubled in the last four years, representing an amazing increase in playing strength. He scored five wins and a draw, perhaps the best individual result in the tournament and well-deserving of his board prize.

Margo Marshak Explains

BY: JOSEPHINE SUH

From February 8, 2006

With the entire campus recently embroiled in controversy from the proposed seven-day board program, Vice President for Student Affairs Margo Marshak explained the administration's thinking on the subject and reflected on the relationship between students and the administration.

Asked whether she had been anticipating the strong reaction of the student body to the seven-day board proposal, Ms. Marshak replied, "I prepared many meetings with the IHC and talked to the IHC chair. I knew there would be [such a reaction]." She remarked that she expected the board program to be eliminated and was looking at more ways to raise money, as the proposals from the 7-day Board Task Force would not give the full \$1.2 million boost that the Institute needs from the Caltech Dining Services.

Margo Marshak also described the problems in student-administration communication—or the lack thereof. Repeating sentiments of frustration expressed at the previous town-hall meeting, Ms. Marshak said that Open Houses did not work due to the absence of student participation and were discontinued because they were uneconomical. "The general failure of communication is especially disconcerting given the small size of the Caltech community," she said.

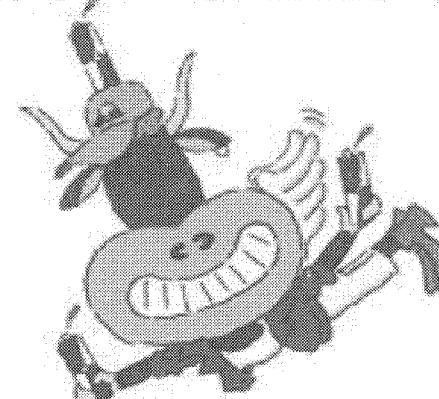
She also pointed out, "There is a great amount of distrust between the student leadership and the administration. This is the first institution where I have witnessed this level of distrust...it has emerged with the budget cuts." When asked for specific instances where such distrust represented a significant obstacle, Ms. Marshak talked about the ongoing renovation of the South



Photo courtesy of president.caltech.edu

Margo Marshak

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The Ath Turns 75

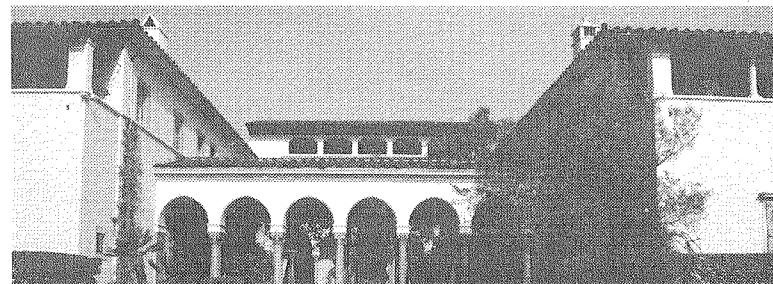
BY: VIBHA LALJANI

The Athenaeum is celebrating its 75th anniversary this month. A three-day dinner celebration, including historical displays and presentations, took place on February 24, 25, and 26 giving the near and dear members of the Athenaeum an opportunity to commemorate the Athenaeum.

The Athenaeum is a membership club that began in 1930 with the purpose of promoting a social, cultural and intellectual exchange. The Athenaeum was inspired from the club in London. Both the clubs were christened "Athenaeum" after the ancient Greek buildings dedicated to Athena, the Goddess of wisdom. In 1929, Mr. and Mrs. Allan C. Balch gifted the institute with stocks for the establishment of the Ath. These stocks worth \$500,000 were oiled just before the stock market crashed. The Athenaeum was designed by Gordon B. Kauffman. The formal opening of the Athenaeum was held in February 1931, when Albert Einstein arrived at Caltech.

Recently, the Athenaeum made its way into Hollywood as a shooting location for movies and TV shows including Beverly Hills Cop, The Wedding Planner, Orange County, West Wing, Winds of War, War of the roses and many TV commercials.

Caltech alumni, Associates, graduate students and staff at Caltech, JPL, the Huntington Library and Art gallery, and the



The Athenaeum is a lasting symbol of Caltech.

FEATURES

paper placemats. However, it is not unusual to see a professor and her/his students huddled together scribbling on those placemats, and taking the mats away as they leave!

The Athenaeum has witnessed birthday celebrations of Arnold Beckman and Linus Pauling and celebrations honoring Caltech faculty. The Athenaeum has been under the threat of having its piano kidnapped by an undergraduate who was trying to extort money. This incident took place in 1960. However, the undergraduate's plan foiled when the then Ath manager turned the case in to the police and FBI. Yet, the Ath continues to be hale and hearty and is celebrating her 75th birthday this month.

The dinner celebration began with a reception where guests were served wine and appetizers.

This was followed by a warm welcome by Professor Christopher Brennen. Next was a toast to another 75 years of the Athenaeum, followed by a welcome speech from Caltech, JPL and the associates, respectively. The dinner was the traditional Athenaeum Round Table Dinner, serving a scrumptious meal and "Berries Athenaeum", the Ath's signature dessert. A video presentation of the history of the Athenaeum flowed into a vision of the future of the Athenaeum by Marisu Jimenez, the general manager of the Athenaeum. The formal proceedings of the celebration came to a close here. There was music provided by Art Deco and His Society Orchestra for those who wished to dance in joy and celebration.

Todd's Paperside Chat

Is Excomm Out Of Line?

BY: TODD GINGRICH

Some people have expressed concern about the process that has led to today's CRC student chair runoff election. I would like to make a futile attempt to explain the election procedure and the Excomm decision that has prompted the runoff without angering too many people in the process.

Initially, RJ Krom was declared to have won the CRC election by a single vote. Jeremy Leibs and RJ's challenger, Dan Knoepfle, felt that the margin of one vote should not be sufficient for a win. They chose to investigate the election procedure more closely and obtained the official ballots in order to review the counting procedures. Jeremy and Dan discovered that the script which counts votes treats all write-in candidates as a single person. If a candidate does not initially have a majority of the votes, then the candidate with the least number of votes is dropped out of the election. If a person voted for the dropped candidate, then their vote is transferred to their next indicated preference. Generally the first "person" dropped from an election is write-in. Because the collection of all write-in votes together is typically not even enough to win the election, no one has historically looked at the names of the write-in candidates in order to separate the write-in votes out as different people. This means that in the past if someone wrote fake entries into the write-in spot, their ballot was treated the same way as a ballot that contained a write-in for a legitimate Caltech undergraduate.

When Jeremy and Dan looked at the write-in votes, they discovered that some were not for Caltech undergraduates. The AS-CIT bylaws say that a ballot cast for someone who is not a registered Caltech undergraduate is invalid. Ultimately it was discovered that there were two votes for RJ which came from such ballots. If those two ballots were thrown out, Dan would have won by a single vote.

The interpretation of the votes is slightly complicated by the fact that traditionally ballots which should be invalidated have been counted. For example, a ballot that ranks Todd as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th is technically invalid, but generally these ballots are counted as a single vote for Todd. In such a case, the elections chair attempts to interpret the intent of the voter. By the same token, one can argue that the intent of the voter who listed RJ as 1st and God as 2nd was to vote for RJ. Therefore it makes little sense to throw that ballot out simply because God is not a registered Caltech undergraduate. The result of the election was dependent on whether or not these two votes could be counted, and Excomm decided that it was more reasonable for a runoff election to make that decision than for a small committee of students to essentially choose the winner.

In addition to the controversy of whether or not the votes should be counted, many people have claimed that Excomm did not have the power to consider the protest since the protest was filed outside of the protest period. Excomm decided that the clause, "The Executive Committee shall have the sole power to consider

FEBRUARY 27, 2006

Pranks

This regular column spotlights a Caltech prank o'the week. This week, former Techers Mason Porter ('98) and Autumn Looijen ('99) take a trip down memory lane to provide this excerpt from their upcoming compilation of entertaining pranks, *Legends of Caltech III: Tech in the Dark*. They are currently looking for pranks for the fourth volume. If you have any, submit them to www.legendsofcaltech.com and to The Tech (thetech@caltech.edu) so your prank can be a prank o'the week.

Whatever It Takes to Pass

BY: AUTUMN LOOIJEN

skin. Let it dry overnight, slap on a coat of orange paint, put

the astroturf in the open end, and we would have it! A six-foot carrot.

If he didn't find out first.

That was a bit of a problem. Before the paper mache was dry, half of Dabney had been by to take a look. Now we were starting to see Moles. We swore them to secrecy, but surely someone would slip up. We painted it the next day, unsure whether the cat -- or rather, the carrot -- was out of the bag. It seemed like forever before the paint was dry.

We snapped a quick picture in the style of the Far Side's "Early vegetarians returning from the hunt", and then snuck into Blacker. It's hard to sneak with a six-foot carrot. There's no way to be unobtrusive, even if you peer around corners first.

With a quick pop into hyperspace, the payload was delivered. But was it a surprise? We didn't even have to ask when we saw him next -- the look of astonishment gave him away. Success! (He later joked that he would give us A+'s in the pass/fail class). We did, however, find hand-drawn carrots on our final exams.)

Music Review

With Love and Squalor (We Are Scientists, 2006)

Grade: C



BY: CINDY KO

Who are We Are Scientists? In a nutshell, they are three hipsters from New York City that have played at Caltech a few times. Partly because of that, they have a pretty decent fan-base here at school, and they are a bunch of nice guys to boot. The last time I saw them play, they were doing a gig in the Coffeehouse. And a year before that, I watched them play in the Ricketts-Fleming courtyard. They consistently put on a great live performance. I liked supporting them because they were really down to earth and earnest. To show my love, I bought their CD and a T-shirt, and of course I fawned over their drummer.

When I saw that pinkisthenewblog.com's Trent had gone to their concert in Detroit, I was excited to find out that they had changed labels and had released a new album. Woohoo! It's sort of nice to see a small band that you know "make it." Now, these guys are signed on to Virgin Records-- holy crap! When I popped the CD in, I guess I expected their sound to have evolved somehow, but I was disappointed. Despite being signed on to a major label, their sound hasn't matured much since their six-song LP that I bought two years ago. When you listen, you can definitely hear how much more money was put into the production, but that's about the only

thing that's changed. The song structures are still extremely simple and unrefined; pretty much a 3-chord combo every single time. Their style is heavily borrowed from the Strokes and Hot Hot Heat, which isn't bad, but it isn't original either. The lyrics...leave something to be desired. ("My body is your body/ if you want to use my body, go for it! Yeah...") Too many bodies! And there are corny-sounding "yeahs" inserted liberally all over the LP. It just makes me cringe. Don't get me wrong; I still think that they are talented musicians-- their live cover of Junior Senior's "Move Your Feet" is proof-- but they need help in the songwriting department.

I feel like I have an obligation to like the album. I like the guys, I like their outfits, I like how they name their albums after J. D. Salinger stories-- I like lots of things about We Are Scientists. I want to like *With Love and Squalor*, but I can't. The only thing I really like about the CD is the cute pictures of the fellas holding kittens. (Come to think of it, there probably isn't anything much cuter than hipsters with kittens.) About the album, I will say this: it's good that We Are Scientists are on the road to success but from a musical standpoint, they still have lots of room to grow. Congratulations and good luck to our friends in We Are Scientists, and keep working on those songwriting skillz!

Next Week: I'll see if I can get my hands on the new Belle & Sebastian LP, "Latenighttales" (Another Late Night, 2006). As always, feel free to email a tip to me (cinko@caltech.edu).

Dining

Fu's Guide to Food: Sushi and Tacos

BY: MENG-MENG FU

Another Saturday night, another mad scrimmage for food. This time, my group of friends decides on sushi. Through the grapevine, I heard of a cheap but good sushi place called Sushi Ya. Located on the corner of Foothill and Alta Dena in a tiny strip mall, it is only about a 5-minute drive from Caltech.

Personally, my favorite restaurants are the hole-in-the-wall, mom-and-pop joints. And sure enough, Sushi-Ya is just that. From the moment you enter, two Asian grandmothers dressed in cute kimono tops greet you. You



A sushi platter from Sushi Ya.

are offered hot wheat tea, which by the way is not free as I initially thought but is instead \$1/person. The sushi menu is colorful and the number of choices overwhelming. Sushi Ya offers two types of "50% Off Sushi", which

is their way of saying cheap sushi; fear not, this is not week-old fish they're trying to pawn off on

Sushi Ya (Sushi for less)
2525 E. Foothill Blvd
Pasadena, Ca
626-795-1311

Rating: 5/7

you. Hand rolls (with ~6 pieces per order) ring in at a round \$3-4; sashimi (usually rice topped with a piece of raw fish) are a bit

The highlight of Sushi Ya, however, is their vast variety of "special rolls". Being college students, my group of 9 decided on only three special rolls: the spider roll (soft shell crab), the baked salmon roll, and the unagi roll (eel). Both presentation and taste of these "special rolls" are much better than the "50% off rolls", but this is probably due to the price range of \$6-\$10 per order. The nice thing about Sushi-Ya's rolls: there is plenty of seafood. Other places will try to skimp you on eel or soft-shell crab to the extent that you can't even taste it, but not here. Other fun rolls to try include: the caterpillar (they even put little antennae on it!), the crunch dragon, and the fire cracker.

Unfortunately, my order of uni (sea urchin) did not come through as the restaurant did not have any. Sea urchin is like a dose of the ocean in your mouth, but the pungent, fishy taste is not for everyone. I developed a taste for it after my SURF project, injecting DNA constructs into sea urchin embryos. And yes, this is what Jin tries to feed Hurley in the first season of LOST. However, despite the dearth of urchin, variety is abundant at Sushi Ya; they offer other dishes such as salads, teriyaki, tempura, udon (thick noodle in broth), and tempura or mochi ice cream.

Another added benefit of the strip mall is ready access to other food vendors. Case in point: **Tacos La Estrella**. Though I was full on sushi, I decided to try out this "star". The prices are very affordable: burritos for around \$4,

tacos at \$1/each, and various authentic sides, including horchatas. I was daring and tried the lengua taco (for those of you not fluent in Español, I ate a beef tongue taco). For \$1.19, it was a savory treat, chock full of flavor. For those of

La Estrella
502 N. Fair Oaks Ave.
Pasadena, Ca
626-792-8559

you faint of stomach, you might want to stay away from the cabeza taco – no confirmation on my part of whether that's head meat or brains. My advice: dump that Chipotle chain (did you know it's a part of McDonalds?) and try out La Estrella.

The verdict? On a scale of 1-7 day board, I'd give Sushi Ya a 5.

Pros: cheap standard sushi, creative "special rolls", cozy atmosphere.

Cons: Limited seating capacity (the entire restaurant seats about 25-30 at most), lack of certain delicacies.

If you're looking to get full on sushi (my group ate about \$11/person) and enjoy the hole-in-the-wall dining experience, head on over to Sushi Ya. If you're looking for a culinary adventure (and either already had some food or are looking to empty your wallet), I'd head on over to Lake or Old Pas. Afloat Sushi on Colorado is a personal favorite of mine ... though I might just be biased because their sushi floats down a conveyor belt on tiny little boats.

Have a restaurant you want me to review? Email me at mfu@caltech.edu.

Club o'the Week

Fluid Dynamics

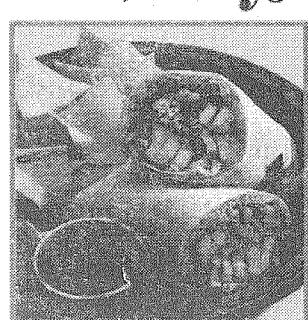
BY: JEFF PHILLIPS

Fluid Dynamics coagulated in the summer of 2003 with an aim to compete in the International Competition for Collegiate A Cappella. To their great delight the group was accepted at ICCA two years in a row along with groups from universities with real music majors all over the West Coast. Now in their third year, Fluid Dynamics has released their first complete album, *Making Waves*, featuring some of their most popular arrangements including "I Want You Back" and "Underground".

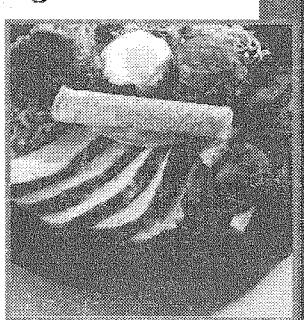
Their CD is available directly from FD members or via PayPal through their website, FluidDynamics.caltech.edu. Among other fabulous groups, FD appeared at this year's "Love Sucks" concert over the weekend, but you can also enjoy them live on selected Mondays outside the Red Door at noon or occasional Fridays on the streets of Old Town Pasadena. Be on the lookout as FD hosts its third term concert, "Orgasmic Crescendo".

Want concert and CD announcements? Join the FD Fan list at <https://utils.its.caltech.edu/mailman/listinfo/fdfans>

Want your club to be a Club o' the Week? E-mail thetech@caltech.edu

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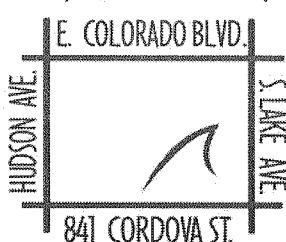
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Fine Arts

What's Not To Like About TACIT's As You Like It?

BY: HARRISON STEIN

In reviewing TACIT's production of *As You Like It*, it's impossible to ignore the script, as it was written by the world's greatest all-time playwright. To be completely honest, *As You Like It* is hardly my favorite Shakespeare play. While there are some scenes with transcendent dialogue typical of something written by the Bard, the play hardly measures up to his tragic masterpieces. The play has some funny moments, but the overall quality of humor doesn't quite cut it despite a high volume of quirky characters. Nonetheless, I'm no literary critic and I don't want to receive angry hate mail from the numerous Shakespeare aficionados who are more knowledgeable on the subject. From this point on, I will take no more shots at the author, as he's not here to defend himself and he's a slightly more accomplished writer than this film critic.

Despite my relative dislike for the source material, the actual production, performed by a combination of undergraduates, graduates, JPL employees and other members of the community, is extremely satisfying. Shirley Marneus has been directing Shakespeare plays for TACIT for more than twenty years and it clearly shows. The Shakespearean style costumes look wonderful on the brave actors who show no reservations in wearing tights. The seamless scene transitions are made by actors with smaller roles, so as not to detract from the overall mood of the place. Some

of the forest scenes take place during the brutal cold, so Marneus finds a way to trickle paper snowflake flurries from the ceiling to give the allusion of snow.

the daughter of Frederick's banished brother. However, when Rosalind is also banished, she dresses like a man to avoid detection and flees to the forests of

and the Caltech undergraduates are especially impressive. Jon is very confident in the lead role, and he reads every line with a self-confidence and uncanny compo-

cocky attitude, highlighted by a jovial laugh made when Orlando fails to land a blow.

The other starring undergrad practically steals the second half of the show. As shepherdess Phoebe, Cecilia demonstrates her inherent youthful exuberance to add a spark to a play that has begun to drag. She is especially delightful in a scene where the shepherd courts her as she is courting Rosalind's male counterpart. This scene definitely has the best dialogue of the entire play. In much more limited roles, Jed Yang, Jon Sadowski, Nicholas Fette and Miranda Stewart add depth to the play and more than hold their own.

If there's one complaint about this production, it's that the central love story doesn't completely work. The actors who play Orlando and Rosalind aren't quite compatible with each other. During their scenes together, the lines are delivered beautifully, but the chemistry is somewhat lacking. I'm not sure how to explain this because the two actors are marvelous in every other scene, but I can imagine the burden of conveying true love on an acting stage weighed down their performances.

Even though I disliked the story, I found the production very invigorating. If you close your eyes and just listen, you notice not only Shakespeare's sharp dialogue, but also the wonderful delivery from the talented array of cast members. Caltech has a nice group of actors and I look forward to seeing them again, perhaps in a play I enjoy slightly more.

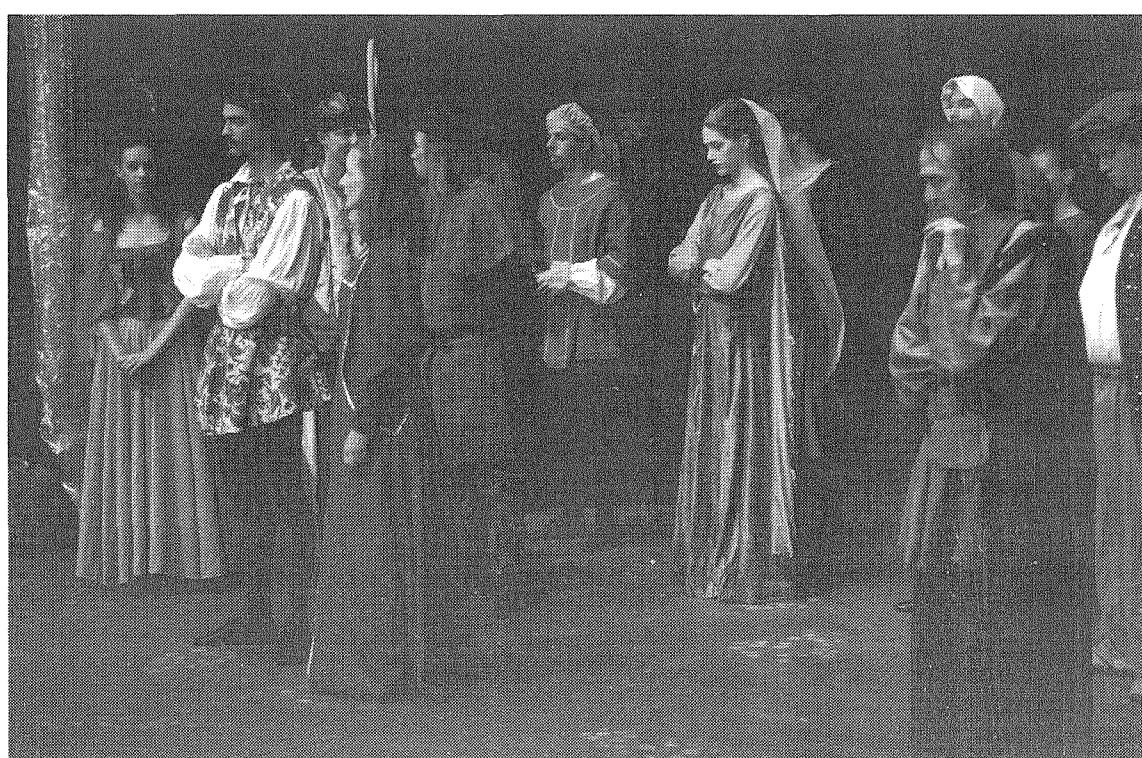


Photo by Matthew Glassman

The cast of TACIT's *As You Like It* gather at the end of the play.

The play stars undergraduate Jon Napolitano as Orlando, the youngest son of the late Sir Rowland, driven from his home by his misguided brother Oliver. After winning a wrestling match against Duke Frederick's chief wrestler (played by former ASCIT presidential candidate Dan McLaury), Orlando falls in love with Rosalind (Karen Kahler),

Aredenne. There, she meets both her father and Orlando and sneakily gives Orlando lessons in love while still disguised. Meanwhile, a shepherd falls in love with a shepherdess (undergrad Cecilia Yu) who, in turn, falls in love with Rosalind, still dressed as a man. In other words, the story is a bit of a mess.

Nonetheless, the Shakespearean actors are very accomplished

sure. We can understand his elation when he first sees his lover and his utter misery when she is taken from him. Jon has great command over the tough Shakespearean dialogue and since he is merely a freshman, we will see far more of him in the near future. Dan only has two major scenes, but his wrestling match is probably the highlight of the play. He perfectly depicts his character's

HUMOUR

ASCIT Minutes (We Wish)

Imagine if you died, went to heaven, yet were still enrolled in a Caltech in the clouds (it's an oxymoron but bear with me). What would the ASCIT minutes look like? The former ASCIT secretary delves into her fantasy to give a pretty good guess.

BY: PARVATHY MENON

1. The Nobel Prize-winning Prefrosh has decided to postpone his GQ Modeling career to come to Tech.

2. Prank-crazed Todd leads a group of Lloydies in a military coup on MIT. MIT is forced to surrender to Lloyd. The Lloydies abandon ASCIT to move en masse to Boston... Ryan Farmer screams that "at last, we can un-

leash the wrath of a Lloydocracy." (If you want postcards, send them to MIT, Farmer, MSC 650).

3. With Lloydies no longer in the way, Page and Ruddock meet for the first time ever and strangely, fall in love. Ten months later, Booty House is born.

4. Announcement to Grad students and post-docs: You need to stop driving your Benzes down the Olive Walk. It's just excessive.

5. Rippling muscles, chiseled jaws, devastating good looks... and craniums densely packed with brilliance and grey matter - Caltech has again won the "Hot-test Class of the Year" award.

6. Dabney achieves nirvana. And because of the Collaboration Policy, the rest of us have too. Sweet.

7. Iron Chef Board Plan: Our meals will hereafter be prepared by alternating Iron Chefs. Unfortunately, the Iron Chef will have to close kitchen from 7:00 - 7:05am on Sunday but other than that, the kitchens will be open Forever and Always to feed us Ridiculously Good Food.

8. \$200 in prank money granted to the team of Moles who have forced FOX Network to broadcast nothing but anime porn. (7-0-0)

9. Fleming wins the Rose Bowl. Again.

In the combined words of Tom Apostol and Reinhold Neibuhr, "It is very important to remember that calculus ... derives much of its power and beauty from ... accepting hardship as the pathway to peace."

A Letter to the Editors, Kinda

Dear Editor(s),

I read and enjoyed Mark Eichenlaub's article in last week's Tech, especially since he writes in a kind of style I like: entertaining and informative, so long as you're not to picky about what you are informed of. I'd like to tell him that I don't think Yike's (pronounced Eco for some reason) shot throw was very good,

since it was similar to what was thrown in interhouse track, and that is not a standard NCAA athletes want to stoop to. I would also like to point out that my criticism of Yike's track prowess has absolutely nothing to do with the fact that he broke the mallet I lent him last week.

However, more important than references to male throwing, I wanted to commend Mark on his brave use of the Parenthetical Comment, and warn the editors that where the censoring of parenthesis goes, there follows tyranny. Mark braved the threat of editorial rebuke to include in his sentences statements that interjected additional information without falling back on that weapon of the weak, the paired comma. Although the editors allowed his bold statement of punctuation non-conformance to go to print, they issued a warning to others thinking they might express themselves in the same way.

This reminds me of something that happened to *The Tech* oh so many years ago. As part of his campaign for Tech Editor, Adam Craig said this about a columnist: "[He] makes five parenthetical comments and three comments set apart from the rest of the text as footnotes" in an attack on said columnist's writing style, showing that his term would not be

one that allowed free expression in the form of an explanatory or logically separate statement within a sentence. This was followed shortly by such disasters as giant hurricanes, the revocation of the first amendment, and the Caltech budget crisis.

Adam Craig also once printed an article of complete gibberish, but not a single footnote. There is a clear link between parenthetical statements, democracy, freedom, love, and the NFL playoffs. I beg the editors to reconsider taking the first step down the path towards suppressing parenthetical comments, because while it may seem benign at first, but it quickly leads to a long drawn out war in the Middle East, and proceeds to its final conclusion: a repressive Orwellian regime that forbids individual thought.

So bravo Mark, you're keeping America free, but editors be warned, once you've tasted the power of speaking out on parenthesis, what will stop you from banning footnotes, declaring that no complex sentences will be printed, repealing the Clean Air Act and returning US to a bloody civil war?

Sincerely,

A Concerned (if somewhat unbalanced) Reader

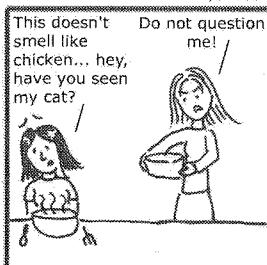
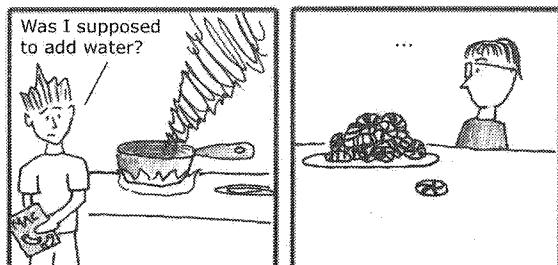
In reply to Mr. Hamilton Falk:

There is a clear link between the time you were high and the time you wrote this letter. Nevertheless, we will keep up the falsehood that we appreciate your concern.

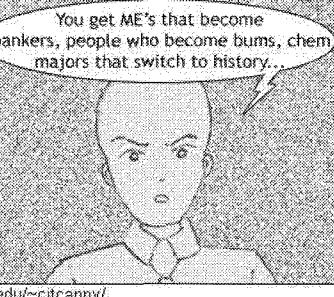
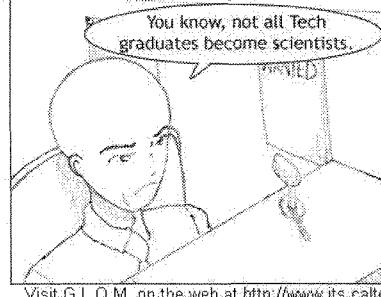
Thank you,
Jon Malmaud
Co-Editor

Comics

Irrational Exuberance



G.L.O.M. - Greg's Life of Misery



By Nathan Lau

Visit G.L.O.M. on the web at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~citicappy/>

Committees is Crunk

BY: MENG-MENG FU

It's becoming alarmingly clear to me that the most uninformed column in the Tech is "Female Dogs is Farming Implements". Misogyny aside, personal attacks are not necessary. Last week, John McNamara wrote: "It is up to the Tech to name people who get offices for their résumé and flake out". The subsequent paragraph quotes new IHC Chair Craig Montuori listing me as a person who is on 5 committees. I can tell you straight off the bat that being involved in Caltech student government is a time sieve. My parents would certainly agree that had I not participated in so many activities, perhaps my GPA would be much higher.

But for me, and so many other people who serve on important committees on campus, it is not about résumé padding. We take time out of our busy problem-set-laden schedules because we know that the student voice needs to be heard, especially regarding important decisions that will impact student life. For instance, the committees I've served on:

1. ARC Chair and CUE (Council for Undergraduate Education). These go hand-in-hand; the ARC Chair is automatically a member of the CUE, which is a steering committee for all academic issues. New improvements such as online TQFRs and swapping

the order of sophomore core are examples of ideas that originated from the CUE.

2. Freshman Admissions Committee. We read application and decide who gets in. I read probably 5-10 applications every week. It's fun.

3. Health Committee. This committee only meets to discuss vital issues. Last Friday, we discussed ramifications of the new health insurance policy, whether undergraduate health insurance should be mandatory or a waiver should be put in place for those who are already insured. If you are interested, look for an article in next week's Tech.

4. CRC. As a member of the CRC for 3 years, I know that student representation on this committee is extremely important. Prior to the formation of the CRC, all policy-related disciplinary cases were handled by the deans. I'm sure that any student who has ever been CRC'ed has been relieved to find students on his/her case.

5. Institute Programs Committee. We meet with folks from Public Events about once a term. If you received an email from me last term to have dinner with the creator of Facebook, it's a result of this committee. To be honest, there weren't enough people signed up for this committee, and so I signed myself up so the BoD wouldn't have to repost sign-ups.

It's not even the personal at-

tacks that I mind the most; it's the whiny, finger-pointing attitude of people who have never made an effort to be involved. My mother always told me that complaining never solves any problems. John McNamara suggested that ASCIT/IHC should consolidate committees. Bad idea. These are not ASCIT or IHC committees; we do not have the power to change the infrastructure of these committees. At Caltech, we are lucky that the faculty and administration allow us to have a vote on their many committees. Student representation on disciplinary cases or in deciding the incoming freshman population is unheard of at most schools. Faculty committees, such as the Health Committee and various academic committees, are not mandated to consider our input, but thankfully, they do. The last thing we want to do is to forfeit our positions on these committees.

I'm glad that people have complaints; it means that there are still changes that we can make. But rather than trying to direct your frustrations at those who have been working the hardest to improve Caltech, perhaps it is time to quit complaining and do something. ASCIT, IHC, and ARC will post committee sign-ups third term.

Oh yeah, and since we're getting in line with the hip hop culture, I'd like to suggest some other fun terms. Crunk and shiznit come to mind.

Read
The Grand Unified Theory of Physics
by
Joseph M. Brown

Discover the connection between the grand unified theory and the fine structure constant

• The orbital speed of the lowest energy electron of a hydrogen atom in velocity of light units is obtained from balancing forces and using an angular momentum of \hbar .

$$\frac{e^2}{r^2} = \frac{mv^2}{r} \quad e^2 = (mv)r \quad \frac{e^2}{\hbar c} = \frac{v}{c} = \alpha$$

e, m v, r = electron charge, mass, velocity, orbital radius. c = speed of light

α = Fine Structure Constant

$$\alpha = \frac{e^2}{\hbar c} = 0.007297352533(27)$$

where (27) is the uncertainty in the last two decimals.

• The fine structure constant also is the ratio of the electromagnetic force to the nuclear force - also known as the electromagnetic coupling constant.

• Everything in the grand unified theory of physics is derived from a Maxwell-Boltzmann gas in which the rms speed v_r is larger than the mean speed v_m by the ratio $v_r/v_m = \sqrt{3\pi}/8$.

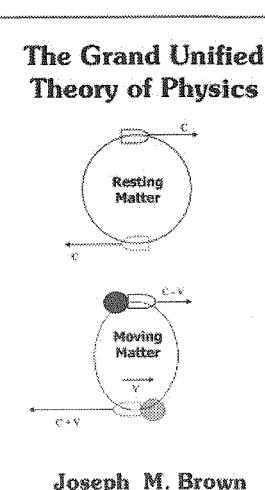
• It is interesting that $\left(\frac{v_r - v_m}{v_m}\right)^2 = (\sqrt{3\pi}/8 - 1)^2 = 0.007293481522$ which is 6 parts in 10,000 smaller than the fine structure constant.

For more information and to access the book, visit www.physicsunifiedtheory.com

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Nearly All Teacher Lives are Spread Thin

BY: JON SENN

gations ahead of completing their personal responsibilities.

Even the rare student who cares more about résumé padding than his or her actual duties tends to satisfy the obligations of his or her position. Students attend Caltech because they have a drive towards excellence: they don't often shirk their responsibilities.

I'm all for complaining when administrators or student leaders let down the student body, but valid complaints require substantiation. Simply pointing out that some student leaders are spread thin (as are most Teachers) without addressing specific deficiencies fails to produce any worthwhile results.

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Bitches is Hoes

Liberals is Bitches

BY: BRIAN HANLEY

Goddamn liberals. I hate all of you. All you want to do is just use my money to help others. Stop stealing my fucking money.

All you do is take my fucking money and hope that you can help poor people. I don't mind you helping poor people, but why are you forcing me to do it by taking my tax dollars and giving it to stupid poor people who don't even have jobs. I don't want to help people who are just too goddamn lazy to get off their fat asses and get to fucking work.

I'm not opposed to helping people in need, but why should I have to pay for welfare. Welfare lets people just sit and earn money for multiple years so long as they are just trying to find employment. And for all I know, all they need to do is just say that they're trying. Fuck 'em. Sure, welfare stops paying out after a while, but they can still sit on it like bitches, just wasting my money for longer than it should take for them to find a job at fucking McDonalds.

Goddamn, just find a fucking job. There are lots of places that need menial labor, find one, you dumb fucker.

Anyway, these liberals think that I should have to pay for dumb shit like this. You might ask why that they would do such a thing. You might ask why the liberals want you to pay for dumbass poor people who are too lazy to work. Well what the liberals don't want you to know is that by helping lazy poor people, you are helping terrorism.

You see, terrorists can say that they are on welfare and they can get all this money from the government that they can then use to bomb your houses. Think of your parents. They make a good living, and they are paying for terrorism.

But now back to those damn liberals. They also want to give you all kinds of drugs. Now drugs are bad, mmmkay. Seriously, drugs are bad. They mess with your mind. They make you all crazy and shit. They even fund terrorism. Really, drugs are bad, mmmkay.

Drugs make you think like a liberal. You don't want to take drugs if you don't want god to be angry with you. If you take drugs, you kill baby jesus.

The liberals also want you to

Bitches is Hoes

The Republican Party Has Gone to Shit

BY: BRIAN HANLEY

I am a Republican. I am not ashamed of my choice. I am however ashamed of the rest of my party. They make it difficult for me to continue to identify myself as a Republican. As the party seems less concerned with science, less concerned with civil liberties, and less concerned with fiscal responsibility, I wonder if I have made the right decision.

Modern Republicans seem far too concerned with what goes on behind the closed doors of others. If you want to masturbate, have crazy S&M sex, sodomize your friends, or whatever, I don't care so long as I am not involved. This is of course within reason; you can't go out and kill someone just because I won't know about it.

Unlike the political greats of the past, Republican or not, modern Republicans have trouble separating politics and religion. The bible is not fact. It may closely

resemble fact, but fact it is not. Many modern Republicans take the bible as absolute fact, every word means exactly what it says. This is simply not reasonable. It is absolutely impossible for the bible to be a straight work of history. Faith or not, simple lack of understanding cannot be allowed to interfere with rational thinking whose outcomes involve other people.

The founding fathers knew much of what was necessary to create a good, fair, equal government. They knew that the government needed to be accountable to its citizens. They knew that the government needed to be limited in its power concerning religion, expression, and enforcement of the law. The founding fathers knew that there must be equality of all citizens under the law. The modern Republican party knows not of these things.

The modern Republican seems to vote for more religion in government decisions, more spend-

Hollywood Infests Campus

BY: HAMILTON FALK

Caltech has been having a budget crisis recently (read: we have several BILLION dollars for research, but apparently no one gives Caltech money to say, feed students or buy light bulbs [except for super-quantum laser light bulbs for research] or water the walkways) so they've been doing some stuff to get more money.

The way that Caltech is adding income/cutting losses are things like attempting to switch to seven day board, raising tuition, taking away our bed sheets¹ and telling that joke about how philosophy is cheaper than math which is cheaper than physics².

Another thing they've been doing is having people film stuff on campus. Perhaps you've seen Legally Blond? Caltech is where they filmed the beginning of that movie. A more recent on campus filming has occurred in the form of a commercial for Qwest (Quwest), a telecommunications company that I've only heard of because they put their name on the Seattle Seahawks stadium. But knowing their name makes me want to buy whatever it is telecommunicationists sell. Telecommunicationists maybe? I personally am hoping they sell sharp cheddar cheese, because I would definitely buy that. Therefore, if you live in Denver, or Seattle, or maybe Arizona or something, you might see their commercials, in which case you would also see Caltech. On the other hand, if you live on campus, you could go outside.

A movie about Nancy Drew, the women's rights and anti-terrorist/smuggler activist, is being filmed at another Caltech owned loca-

¹ Not just housing bed sheets either, I live off campus and I caught some Caltech administrators trying to sneak out of my bedroom window with my own private bed sheets. Unfortunately for them I don't live on the ground floor, so they would have been seriously injured if I hadn't made this entire story up.

² The Joke: Dean, to the physics department. "Why do I always have to give you guys so much money, for laboratories and expensive equipment and stuff. Why couldn't you be like the math department - all they need is money for pencils, paper and waste-paper baskets. Or even better, like the philosophy department. All they need are pencils and paper." Get it? Philosophers bring their own trash cans! Ha ha ha!

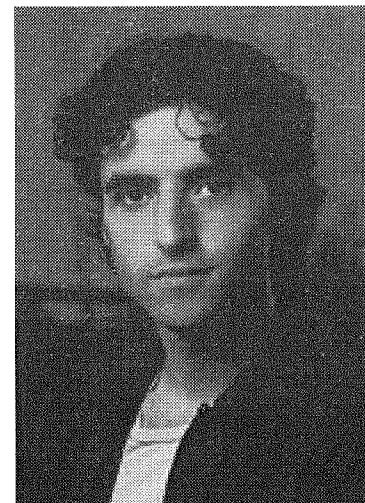


Photo courtesy of CBS.com

David Krumholtz stars at Charlie Eppes in the CBS show Numb3rs. David is often seen around campus during film shoots. Be careful not to get tasered.

tion, the almost certainly haunted³ St. Luke's hospital, which forced a delay in Drop Day, the well known civil rights activist/party. Other film crews that have been on campus include those filming Numb3rs.

I hope everyone realizes that the proper way to pronounce that name is 'numb-three-ers', not 'num-bers'. While there has been a rumor that some people pronounce it this second way, that rumor is falsely based on the fact that some people have dyslexia, and can't tell numbers from letters. These people think that a 3 is the same as an e. Let's compare them. A 3 looks like this: 3. An e looks like this: e. Case closed you might think. But no, some people will draw attention to another form of e, the capitol E. Personally I think that's a matter for residents of Washington DC to decide (if you don't like puns, you shouldn't have read that last sentence) but we'll discuss it. The problem with even this other e, or E, is that it doesn't look like a 3. You'll notice that 3's have loopy bits, and even if these were to be straightened out, it would still be backwards. So don't look like a fool, pronounce it correctly: num-

³ Although the ghost or sea monster will later turn out not to be a supernatural creature at all, but instead Old Man Riley, who is trying to drive the price of the property down so he can buy it cheaply and reopen the long forgotten gold mine underneath. Mr. Riley was quoted as saying that he "woulda gotten away with it if it weren't for those darn kids."

three-ers.

Anyway, Numb3rs is the 'hot new TV show where they use math to solve crimes' or something like that. I don't know how they do it, but I hope it involves the Pythagorean Theorem and the person it most resembles: Shaq⁴ (everyone's favorite Miami Heat center/genie that comes out of a boom box).

Numb3rs first filmed something in Ruddock (rhymes with Ruddock) house. Since this first filming they have moved on and are now seen hanging out all over campus, like one of the student owned cats, looking all cute and petable until you get too close, then slash, your hand has new holes in it. I personally have ruined a few shots because they were rude enough to be filming a scene on the very path my bike was traveling, and I change direction for no film crew.

Worse, they decided they needed to film in a hole (perhaps they want to have an episode in which they dig up a magic boom box with Shaq living inside it?). Since Hollywood technology can't yet handle the complexities of the hole environment in studio, the Num3rs crew decided to follow what is becoming a campus tradition and dig their hole in a sports field. (Last year Caltech dug a big hole on a sports field in order to bury a parking structure. This is because major research universities like to pretend that they are pirates, and that parking structures are 'booty.') This was necessary, because if the hole wasn't on the Caltech property people would know that the whole show was a sham, mere make believe. In addition, the field was the ideal grassy area because no one was using it anyway.

The good part about the Qwesters and the Numb3rs is that people at Caltech might get to be on TV. Assuming that they graduate and become good looking actors who are hired by whoever is filming here in the future. So embrace all the filming taking place on campus, because it could be your ticket to fame. Just don't embrace the actual actors, because they are allowed to tase any student who touches them or makes them feel uncomfortable.

⁴ Shaq at one point said, "I'm like the Pythagorean theorem. Not too many people know the answer to my game."

Recently I have received emails from the great Ken Mehlman, chairman of the Republican National Committee. The first I received told me to join thousands of others across the country and host a State of the Union party to

show support for our terrific president. It even gave me a handy way to email others invitations and requests to volunteer to help setup such a party and get people in my community aware of the wonderful job our president is doing.

It is entirely apparent that our president is an idiot who is not concerned with the rights of the citizens he is sworn to protect. While I do hate referencing things I could change in the past, the fact that I only just recently learned that the president is a fucking teetotaler makes me regret my decision to vote for him. Anyone that must absolutely abstain from even something in moderation is unfit to be the president. I cannot trust

"Will you join us by hosting a State of the Union House Party in your home?"

-Ken Mehlman

for influencing voters and name-calling is used to silence critics, I know that the religious right has shamed my party. When major issues that come before elected representatives involve equal treatment under the law and the right to teach religion as science I wonder if I should just get really bitter and go third party. But at that point I just become an idealist and give up on the system.

him to make reasonable decisions if he doesn't even have the self-control to drink in moderation.

Another email I received concerned the Patriot Act and the Democratic agenda trying to destroy it. I quote, "When Democrats brag about undermining an important part of the War on Terror, we hold them accountable. You can too – by watching the video, and forwarding it to all of your friends." The Patriot Act gives undue power to the government, and while it may allow for improved communication between governmental agencies, the other things contained within it expand the powers of the government far too much. The Patriot Act is 272 pages long and it was passed within days of being received by those who voted on it. It is clearly a document that was designed to force our elected officials into voting for it because no one could possibly vote against

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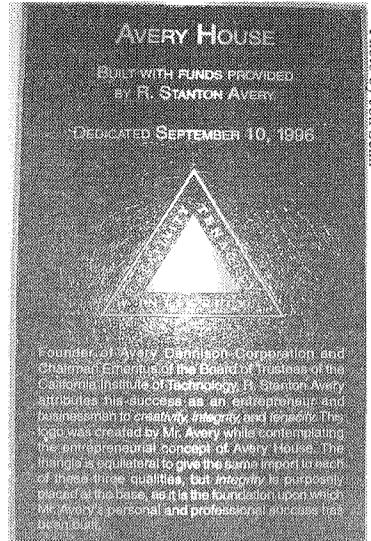
Avery is Not a House and You are a Tool

BY: MARENA LIN

As a research institute, Caltech succeeds brilliantly; as a place for the college experience, for maturity, and for fostering the growth of young adults, it comes close to failing miserably. Math and science are narrow to begin with, but the fraternity styled housing compounded with a ridiculously tiny student population has the potential to force the narrowness to a point of utter suffocation.

The concept of the house system is beautiful—on paper: a pre-defined community with a pre-defined culture for your predefined personality. Oh wait... personalities don't come predefined; but that's okay, with some tailoring, you are bound to fit in just fine. And this is all good. The stereotype of new Caltech students having experienced a serious dearth of socialization is fact for many, and they only stand to benefit from having these preformed social niches to fill. There is clearly nothing intrinsically wrong with this system, and many people are incredibly happy with it. However, the culture that it has come to propagate has proved to be damaging in many respects.

One overblown point of contention is likely the one that first drew you to this article: the seemingly unfading obsession with the declaration that "Avery is not a house." This is true. Avery is clearly not a house; it has no "traditions;" it has no one personality; it has no active and productive governing body; it is just a group of people living in well-kept dormitories with good food. The concept of a brick and mortar building with no personality seems to drive many people up the wall. Coming from a diverse



The Avery House logo along with an explanation of its history.

high school of four thousand, it was shocking to see such fervent passion directed toward so trivial and minute an issue. Speaking to many recent graduates of Caltech, it's strange to see how opinions of the undergraduate program change once they become removed from the environment; many are of the opinion that the singularity of Caltech's student culture is at once its greatest gift and its most damaging fault.

There are few other notable instances where a population of blindingly brilliant individuals is easily swayed to think in one direction. A recent example of this is the recent newspaper elections, where the former editor spammed the houses with a scathing email the night before elections, slandering several of the candidates with the magic phrase: "tool of the Administration". The next day, the voter turnout was high—against those candidates who had been slandered. The claim that the

American population was "stupid" enough to vote for Bush in the 2004 elections does not hold much water in light of this. The use of the phrase "tool of the Administration" has become eerily analogous to the Republican Party's use of the label "unpatriotic". There is clearly no correlation between intelligence and how easily people become indoctrinated and riled by some kind of groundless conviction. It is not difficult to find instances where Caltech students

are "tools" of the masses (albeit the small, passionate masses). The opening of Avery to freshmen brought Caltech one step closer to removing itself from the insularity. For once, freshmen had the option to not join a college fraternity.

The fact that this option did not previously exist is frightening and just speaks to the rampant conviction that certain beliefs, the ways certain things are done, are the only ways that they should be done.

This is not to say that there are no upsides to having a small united student population. The imposition of a seven day board only met its death because the Caltech undergraduate community was united enough to put up a fight—when at most large schools, apathy commonly permits such atrocities. This kind of productive energy is only possible with such a close-knit community. As a freshman, I have found that students here genuinely care for one another, willingly helping out in any situation; most students also share a high sense of character, in some sense evidenced by the strength of the honor code. However, one would hope that these two traits can exist independent of a house system and honor code—and in the future, independent of Caltech.

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Caltech Arts: TACIT

Thomas Everhart. Even Feynman had been involved by acting in productions including *Guys and Dolls* and *South Pacific*.

According to Marneus, there is little difference between studying theatre and science. "Science and theatre are founded on the same principle which is curiosity about the world around us, about ourselves, about how things work." Taking this away from an experience with TACIT, many students have progressed to careers related to entertainment. Computer programmer Ray Lischner went on to write *Shakespeare for Dummies* after helping form TACIT.

Chris Springfield, who as a student directed TACIT's production of *Inherit the Wind*, went on to receive an Academy Technical Achievement Award for his developments with Disney. Even if someone does not go on to revolutionize Hollywood, the experience of acting with TACIT gives members of the community the opportunity to dissect a character in a play and see their myriad dimensions. Doing this "you can learn more about yourself," according to Marneus.

You can see the current TACIT production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* March 3rd at 8PM and 4th at 2PM in Ramo Auditorium. In addition, TACIT will have an encore performance at the Huntington on Sunday, March 5th at 1PM. Next term, PA 40c will be offered to give students a critical look at Shakespeare in performance. This includes watching tapes and movies of plays and attending a live performance at the Pasadena Playhouse.

Round out yourself and get involved; don't turn into an Obscure Guy. Try PA 40c next term and audition for the play next year. Get in touch with people from all aspects of the Caltech community. Find out what really goes on behind the whiteboard in class.

The GOP Has Become The Big Circus Tent Party

Continued from Page 8

something called the Patriot Act it would be unpatriotic.

The video flashes 9/11 and is clearly propaganda in effort to save the powers temporarily granted by the Patriot Act. It points out Harry Reid as being proud of destroying the Patriot Act and even publishes his home phone number so people can call him and tell him he is wrong. See it yourself at www.republicanvictoryteam.com.

What a terrific idea. Smear campaign against the Democrats. Fucking brilliant. I wonder what genius thought that up. Just promote partisan bitterness. The other side will come around eventually. They don't need rights. Rights just give them the ability to speak out against the government and teach our children that we came from monkeys. We can't have that.

The latest email I sent to me by the wise and noble Ken Mehlman came after the State of the Union address. Ken asks me to help support the president's agenda. He asks me to sign the petition, to call members of Congress so they know the president deserves their support, to make a donation to the Republican party that will be used to help support the president's agenda in the coming weeks, and to "please" forward this email to all of my friends, family, etc. Fuck you Ken Mehlman.

Included in the email is a copy of the State of the Union address. Lets see what the president wants to do.

In just the sixth paragraph of the State of the Union, Bush mentions September 11. Yes, it was tragic.

Yes, it we need to learn from it. But move on you fucking asshole. The same shit over and over is bound to stop working as a method for instilling fear and swaying votes. If you have a plan that is worthy of support then intelligent individuals will follow your lead. If you can't come up with a plan worthy of support without scaring people into following you, then you don't deserve to make such important decisions.

He continues by mentioning that we will not retreat and "we will never surrender to evil." Evil. Fucking evil. Evil, like terror, is intangible. You cannot wage war on an idea; you cannot retreat from an idea.

Bush mentions the need to monitor phone calls. He states that he has the authority to do so and past Presidents' right to monitor phone calls was justified by Federal courts. I don't see his approval. He seems to have skipped that step since other presidents seem to have been able to do this without problem. I don't want people listening in on my fucking phone calls. Cut this Big Brother shit out and let me be.

Bush wants to extend, even make permanent, the tax relief given to the public. Genius. Lets just continue to return 880 billion dollars to the American public, as our beautifully balanced budget continues to expand its tremendous yearly deficit. Stop spending my fucking money. You are supposed to support less government and less spending by that government, but you are just wasting my goddamn money. I want you to take every dollar, no every single fucking penny you have made



Ken Mehlman, Chairman of the Republican National Committee

"You've stood strong with President Bush as he has expanded freedom around the world and made America more prosperous."

-Ken Mehlman

during your presidency and give it back to the government. You should help out and lessen the deficit by giving the government more money. If you really support what you are doing then show the American public that the budget is worthwhile, help decrease the deficit because you believe in what you are spending my money on.

He says that he is cutting 14 billion dollars from the budget. 14 billion. Only 14 billion. The deficit is 364 billion dollars. The budget is 2,036 billion dollars. That's an 18% deficit. That's big-

ger than Baltimore and his committee of douches and yet somehow, we can afford to eliminate a 5% budget deficit in one year. The federal government should be able to at least bring the deficit down to 13%, maybe 14%. But next year, subtracting the 14 billion dollars, the deficit will still be 17% of the budget. Do your jobs, congressmen and senators. Come up with programs that can be cut so that the government can STOP WASTING MY FUCKING MONEY.

Bush also wants line-item veto power. It sounds good in theory, but the ability to cut and paste bits of bills and budgets and all the items that congress must vote on is far too much power. The government is designed to limit the power of its separate branches. It is simply balance of power.

Our great president also mentions new increased support for hydrogen-powered vehicles. They may reduce emissions, but I wonder where all the hydrogen for a hydrogen-fueled economy will come from. It can't come from the ocean that costs more energy to extract than we get from the return. We can't get hydrogen from gasoline that just continues our dependence on oil and defeats the purpose of hydrogen-fueled vehicles.

Bush continues to talk about his wonderful new programs to help the economy, help education, prevent crime, and so on. All he is doing is proposing new ways to spend my money. He expands the budget with new programs and increases the deficit by not eliminating worthless govern-

ment spending.

I want a fucking refund. Give me back every dollar I have given you during your presidency. I don't want it from the government; I want it from you, because you are the one who has made the decisions that spend my money poorly. You can even get assistance in paying me from the senators and congressmen who have voted with you. You and the other Republican bigwigs somehow don't find it appropriate to think rationally and conservatively, so I want my fucking money back.

What the Republican party needs is actual intellectuals supporting the party. Professors at colleges need to teach conservatism, in the true traditional sense, not the distorted religious propaganda it is now. And to do this, they need to be conservative and believe in conservative ideals. This cannot happen while the right is such a proudly religious voting party.

The religious right speaks of how we must defeat the evils of terrorism and fight religious fundamentalism, yet they fail to see what they themselves are doing. They push their religious agenda on everyone else. Sure, they don't blow themselves up, but they use fear and harassment to get others to vote along their religious beliefs. They hate science and reason. These are the tools that the intelligent man can use to rationally vote to allow others a right, even if he does not want to exercise this right himself.

So if Republicans no longer stand for what I stand for and I am not a hippie democrat, what am I? A liberaltarian? I don't know. Conservatives is Bitches.

Men's Basketball Edged by Whittier in Overtime in Final Game

BY: MATTHEW GLASSMAN

Last Monday night, in the closest conference game over at least the past two years, Caltech lost by two points to Whittier in overtime for a final score of 84-86. Tech came to their last home game with a record of 0-12 in SCIAC while Whittier arrived ranked seventh out of eight in the conference with a record of 3-9. Senior captain Jordan Carlson (42) was reported having surpassed 1000 career points that game, after three years of intercollegiate play.

After holding a lead for over thirty minutes of the game by as much as 8 points in the second half, Tech allowed two critical three-pointers with less than thirty seconds to go to put Whittier up by 1. Freshman Travis Haussler (54) took it to overtime with a free throw. Tied with 84 points in the last few seconds of overtime, Whittier scored 2 with 2.0 remaining on the clock and Tech was unable to come back for the win.

As close of a game as it was, the team kept the three-quarters-filled gymnasium on edge for the entire time. There was no call against the Beavers that went uncriticized or Whittier foul shot attempt that went unheckled. For the last few minutes of regulation play and overtime, every fan stood.

Carlson recalled his impressions on the tough defeat, saying

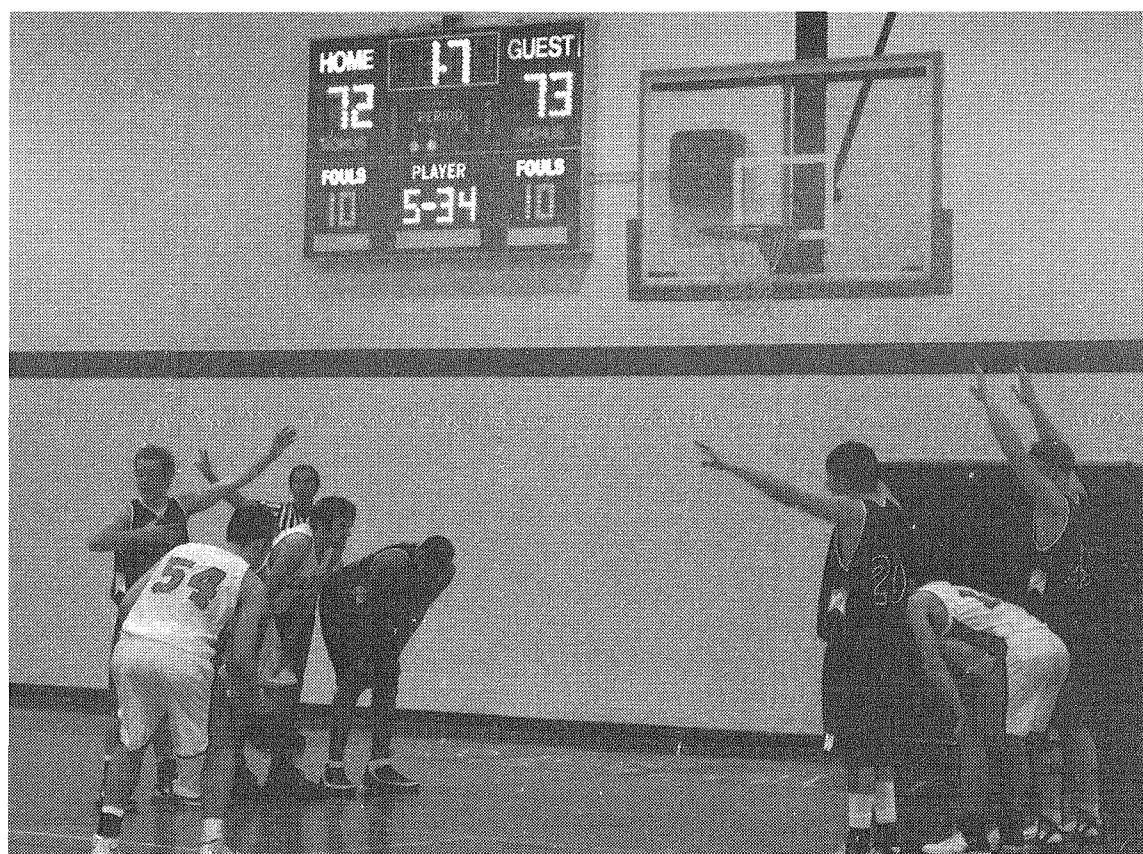


Photo by Lisa Tran

knew we could play with them. We knew we had a chance to beat them."

Carlson led the Beavers in scoring with 25 points and 6'6" sophomore Bryan Hires (41) came up with 12 rebounds, respectively outdoing both the scoring and rebounding leaders from Whittier that night.

This year, the men's team has received some attention from the media regarding their 244-game losing streak over 21 seasons in conference. In a Sports Illustrated article titled "Turning Losing into a Science," dated January 4, 2006, Rick Reilly sarcastically criticized the consistently unsuccessful Beavers. "Wouldn't you think just once a ball would bounce off a pocket protector and in for a win?"

Similar articles circulated through local and national news in February as the team sustained its reputation through SCIAC conference games that began January 11th. Commenting on the high number of high school valedictorians on the team, Ken Peters with the Associated Press noted that, "the streak aside, there are no losers playing for Caltech."

With the loss of five seniors who have made a significant contribution to the team's progress over the years, the program looks to the promising younger athletes to carry the team to a very long overdue conference win next year.

Freshman Travis Haussler (54) sinks a free throw to tie the score with 1.7 seconds left in regulation.

that "it was fun, but it was disappointing." While Carlson took a foul that sent him to the floor bleeding and then to the training room for the last few minutes of the first half, the hardest part was getting fouled out with 3:44 left in the game. "I really wanted to be in there," he remembered, "but we put in a great effort and I'm

proud of all the guys who closed the game out for us."

Co-captain Day Ivy (21) was also fouled out with minutes to go in the second half and was ineligible to play in the tense overtime that followed. "It was tough because it was the last home game for Jordan and I and we really wanted to be there to finish

it off."

Speaking about the team over the seasons he has played, Ivy noted that "we've had a chance to win games [almost] every year." The team has become more competitive each year, marked by an increase in points per game and a decrease in points allowed. "Going into the game on Monday, we

Women's Basketball Season Ends

BY: MATTHEW GLASSMAN

Last Tuesday, Caltech suffered another loss against Whittier in the final home game of the season. The score was 40-81 as the women closed off a tough season, finishing 0-14 in SCIAC and 0-25 overall.

Sophomore captain Lindsay King (15) led the team in scoring with 13 points, senior captain Shelby Montague (32) had 13 rebounds, and Rene Davis (23) came up with 2 steals. King and Montague brought altogether above average performances and both played for the whole forty minutes of regulation time.

In a pre-game ceremony marked by flowers and hugs, Coach Marbut and the rest of the team sent off their two graduating seniors, Montague and Angela Magee (31), graduating junior Lisa Tran (30), and foreign exchange student Ryoko Amano (10).

The starters came off the bench through two columns of their teammates and coaches, and the women took the court in front of one of the largest home crowds of the season. While they did not sink the first points of the game, they earned and held onto a short lead in the first few minutes. Unfortunately the first half ended 17-14 and Caltech was unable to recover. The women stepped up offensively and defensively for the second half, as reflected in the relative scoring, but the effort was not enough to turn the game.

Coach Marbut had only positive things to say about the way her players came out to the game that night. "Effort has never been an issue," she assured. "There is not a team that tries harder and plays it to the end."

King commented that the game was a little upsetting. "We could have done better," she reflected, "but I believe we improved from



Captain Lindsay King fights for two points in the second half as the Beavers challenge the sixth-ranked Poets. Also pictured Marie Giron (24) and Lea Kunesh (20).

last year."

The loss of four top-performing upperclassmen will be tough for the ten member team to bear, but there seems to be much promise in the group of freshmen and sophomores that remain.

Davis played for a majority of Tuesday's game and followed scoring leader King with 11 points. Davis also drew most of the fouls that evening and sunk 5 of 7 free throws. Sophomore Meghan Kelleher (21) and freshman Lea Kunesh (20) also scored in the effort against Whittier, both playing for more than half of the game.

King said that she could definitely notice the team's progress. "Last year I was looking forward to this year's group," she recalls.

Noticing that the team has improved, King is pretty excited about next year. She feels that they have earned respect this season and shown the other conference teams that they will compete.

Coach Marbut explained, "Am I disappointed? Yes. Am I unhappy? No. We just couldn't quite stack up with them tonight". Nevertheless, her optimism is resilient. "I refuse to believe we can't do it. We're not looking for excuses, we're looking for the right time when we'll come out on top." With the season now over, the program looks to next year as the opportunity to keep working hard and make something happen.

Swimmers Set Personal Records

BY: TOM JURCZAK

This past week, the Caltech Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams competed in the SCIAC championships, held in Cerritos. Coaches Clinton Dodd and Calla Allison led both Caltech teams to 7th place overall, each finishing ahead of Whittier. Both narrowly finished behind the 6th place school. All the swimmers that came to the meet showed improvement in most of their swims. Most turned in performances that were season and lifetime bests.

The star of the first day was Women's Captain Rebekah Eason '06, who won the 3M diving competition after qualifying in first the week before, becoming Caltech's first SCIAC champion for swimming and diving in recent history.

Eason continued her success in the 1M event. She and the top-seeded diver dueled to the last dive; however, Eason finished in a close second place.

Men's Captain Max Zavodny '06 swam well in the 400 IM, finishing 14th after finals despite

wearing a suit that was starting to tear during that swim. Zavodny concluded his career with a swim in the mile, finishing 16th in the timed final.

Ben Pelletier '06 turned in his own strong finishes, placing 4th in both the 1M diving and 3M diving events.

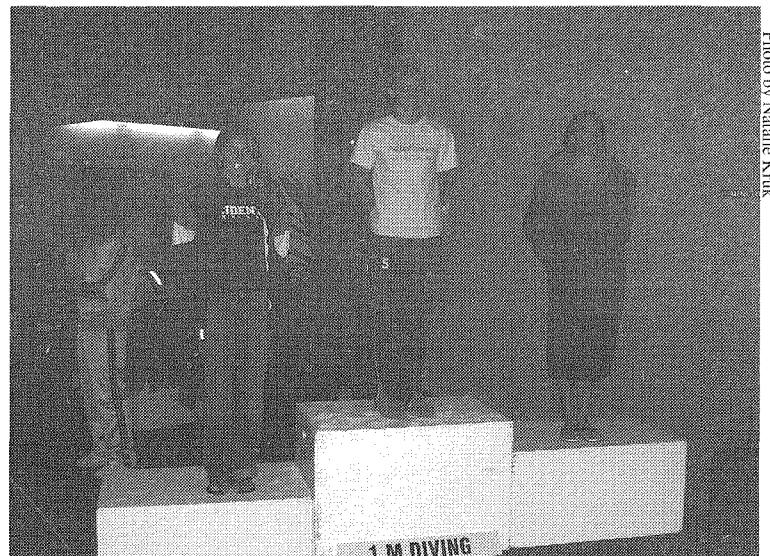
In prelims, Erin Flanigan '08 swam to a lifetime best to qualify and then claimed 10th in the 50 free final that night.

Tom Oliver '09 finished 14th in the 100 butterfly after qualifying with a lifetime best swim in preliminaries. Oliver also gave two impressive individual efforts in the 200 butterfly to finish 15th.

Tom Jurczak '07 finished with a 13th place showing in the 100 breaststroke.

Calvin Ting '09 had a fine morning swim and lifetime best to qualify and place 16th in the 200 breaststroke.

Few of the teams' seniors will graduate this year, with Zavodny, Eason and Natalie Kruk '06 being honored at the SCIAC meet. The outlook for the teams' continual improvement is bright. Congratulations to all on great performances over the season.



1 M DIVING
Captain Rebekah Eason placed 2nd in the 1M diving event at the SCIAC championship. Eason also won the 3M diving event.

Photo by Natalie Kruk

Caltech Women Kick Serious Disc

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

Caltech's Women's Ultimate team (Snatch) played with the big schools at this weekend's UCLA Invitational, winning 3 out of 7 games. Even after a player suffered a broken collarbone in the fourth game, Snatch pulled through to win two of its three last games.

Saturday's first game was against UC-Davis A, one of the best frisbee teams in Southern California. As the first match of the tournament is spent warming up, it was lucky that Caltech could get its first-game jitters out against a team it wasn't concerned about beating. Caltech did manage to score one point on Davis in a throw from Katherine to Minh, for a final score of 1-13.

Snatch's next two games were against teams of similar ability, but Caltech was just a few points short of the win both times. In the second game, Caltech played against Midas, UCLA's B team, for a close game of 8-10. Midas pulled a tough zone defense for every point, a move that was countered by hammer throws from Sarah Payne. In the third game, Cal Poly's team, SLO-Motion, nailed Caltech for the first few points. After an inspirational time-out from Minh Huynh to focus on the game, Caltech pulled its act together to score a respectable few points, including 3 by Katherine Poulin, with a final score of 7-13. The most notable play of the game was a Callahan scored by Minh--a two-point play where you intercept the opponent's disc in your own endzone.

Snatch's first win was against UC-San Diego's B team, the Psychos. Since Caltech beat the Psychos in Santa Barbara, the team was confident and pulled an im-



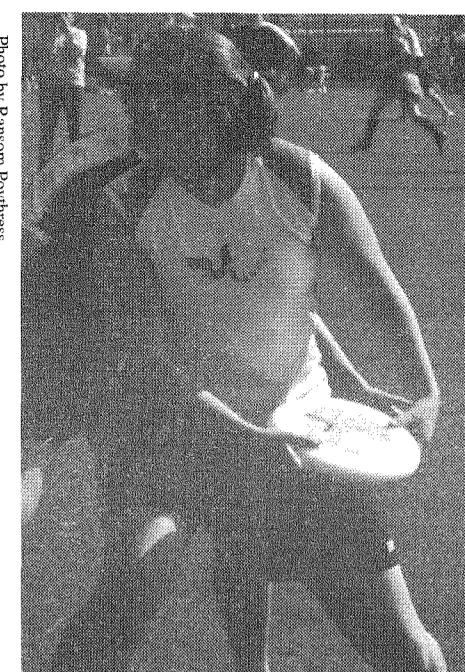
Saturday's team, from left to right, top row to bottom: Louisa Liberman, Laura Fishman, Harmony Gates, Lizzy Trower, Sierra Petersen, Mary Dunlop, Katherine Poulin, Claire Farnsworth, Taiala Carvalho, Minh Huynh, Michelle Farkas, Sarah Payne, Marissa Cevallos, Suzanna Golisz.

pressive 13-2 win. However, the game was not without injuries. Carolyn Brinkworth, Caltech postdoc, broke her collarbone when diving for the disc on the tenth point. She remained impressively calm while laying on her back waiting for medical assistance. Team members--both on Caltech and San Diego's side--clapped for Carolyn as she walked off the field in a sling.

While the score of the fifth game (5-13) does not indicate that Caltech fared particularly well, the match against UC Berkeley A was one of Caltech's most impressive.

For a team that sweeps up Southern California frisbee tournaments (Caltech lost 1-13 against Berkeley in the last tournament), Berkeley was surprised when Caltech's Minh Huynh scored the first point of the match. Minh scored another point and had two defensive blocks during the game.

Sunday's two games were all-out victories for Caltech. Snatch swept UCSD again in a 13-3 win, with Taiala Carvalho scoring four of the points. Snatch also replayed UCLA B in its seventh game--this time, Caltech controlled the field with a 13-6 win.



Sarah Payne looks upfield for a pass while a UC-Davis defender tries to block her throw.

7 Games Played

Scored 60 of 121 Points

Carvalho - 12 Points

Huynh - 13 Defenses

Payne - 26 Assists

Fencing Season Finale

BY: CRAIG MONTUORI

As the last fencing tournament of the 2005-2006 season wound to a close, the question of succession of team captain was decided with Park Cram succeeding Vanessa Heckman, in a move containing Darb-on-Darb succession. Park's acceptance speech involved some mumbling, though his mumbling surely contained many words of wisdom.

This final tournament matched Caltech teams up against worthy foes from USC, UCSB, Arizona State, and UCLA. Overall, Caltech men's teams beat USC and UCSB, but fell to Arizona State and UCLA. Women's teams fought hard, but fell to the four schools, mainly due to gaps in the women's foil team.

Following a lengthy wait after the tournament ended, an equally lengthy awards ceremony bestowed honors upon the teams.

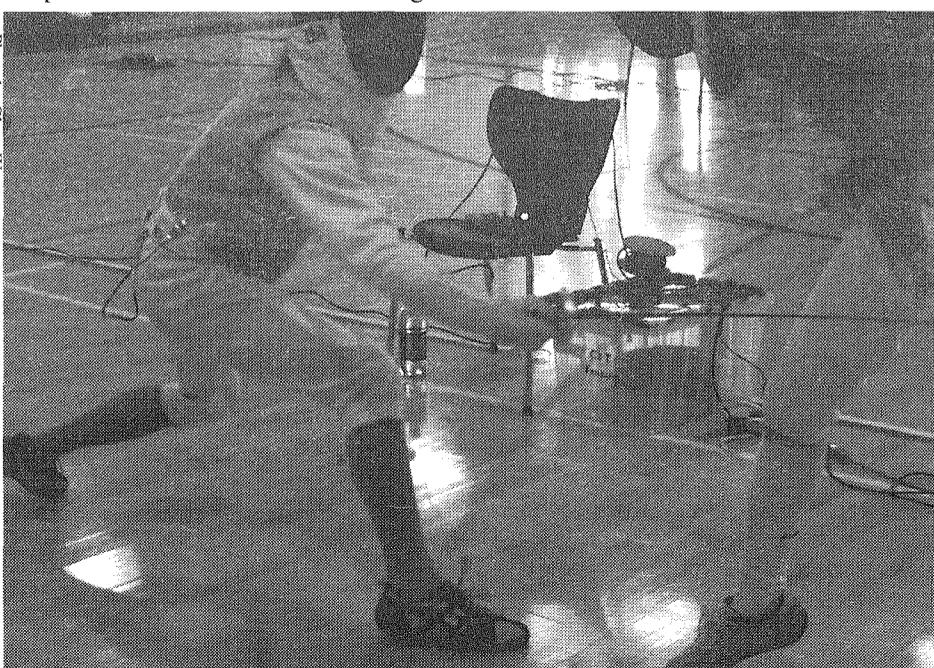
Deserving of extra congratulations are outgoing captain Vanessa Heckman, of Dabney and Ricketts frosh, David "Wiggles" Romney. Vanessa made top honors as the first place individual women's saber fencer for the season, and Romney got 4th place in men's saber. Both will be go-

ing to the Westerns Regional Competition at the Air Force Academy next weekend. They will be joined by Park Cram, John McNamara, and Tony Gross.

For the first time in many years, Caltech fielded both women's and men's teams in all three weapons: foil, epee, and saber. This is a worthy achievement because it demonstrates the success of Caltech's recruiting methods for NCAA sports, which take people who are interested in something like fencing (or just need a PE), get them hooked on the sport, then BAM sell them into slavery in Mexico. Or have them join the team, that's it.

For those not in the know, the three weapons of fencing each involve different styles. For those of you who are loose, fast, and wild, saber is probably the weapon of choice. Others prefer to be more deliberate, waiting for the right moment to hit the sweet spot. Epee would be their weapon of choice. Finally, people should stick to foil if they like the awkward back and forth of figuring out who has the right of way of making a move. This gets them out of the way of everyone else, since they follow the principle of, "Get hit? You're dead."

Cheers to everyone on the team for working hard all year and finishing strong.



William Park Cram, new captain of the Caltech Fencing Team as well as continuing Men's Foil Captain, foils his squirming opponent from USC.

Track Team Beaten by Fancy-Uniformed Foes

BY: MARK EICHENLAUB

Author's note: I regret to inform my readers that due to the necessity of maintaining high journalistic standards in my reports, I am no longer permitted to use parentheses in my articles (very much).

Cramped in the musty and boisterous confines of the visiting teams' locker room at Claremont-McKenna College, I stared critically at the tall, graffitied white board blanketing the wall before me. On it, I had already drawn a picture of the track and outlined my master plan for the impending 4x1600m relay as the members of rival teams, clearly in awe of my genius, stood huddled as far away from me as possible while waiting for a bathroom stall.

Along with my teammate and go-to man Matt Kiesz, I carefully considered the final touches. "You forgot to draw boobs on the cheerleaders," Matt reminded me. Of course! And with that, our grand strategy achieved its full and glorious fruition. Every detail, from the UC Irvine runners getting shot down by the starter's pistol, to the Giant Pit of Inevitable Death (and sharks), to the many, many midgets, was laid out in perfect detail. David "Cupcake" Rosen suggested tying lasers to the sharks' heads, but that proved unnecessary as the sharks were in need of neither instant hair removal nor were they making Powerpoint presentations. Besides, this was Division III athletics, and the money for those kinds of expenditures simply wasn't available. So we planned on regular sharks instead.

Unfortunately, due to slight miscalculations by our scheduling department, we did not have time to implement the plan, and so instead attempted to win the race by running very fast. The team of Mark Eichenlaub (hey, that's me!), Kiesz, Rosen, and Tim Tirrell scorched an 18:46 performance. The runners from UC Irvine kindly refrained from laughing as they lapped us. Of special note was Tirrell's 5:01 time, which raised the bar yet again in the ongoing duel of the team's 400m runners running the mile. Sprinters have now proven themselves to be the team's fourth and fifth-fastest milers.

The meet we attended was the "Rossi Relays", so named because the meet consisted primarily of relays, and because "Rossi" starts with an "R", and CMS is fond of alliteration.

The women's 4x1600m team of Katherine Breeden, Sarah Stokes, Eva Murdock, and Tatiana Gueorguieva, whose last name is Russian for "G", ran 25:31, and soundly beat the CMS 'B' team women, who failed to finish the race because they were completely demoralized by our ladies' blinding speed.

The 4x800m is a beautiful, agonizing race that high school teams run frequently, but college teams rarely contest. After careful statistical analysis coupled with my immense knowledge of track and field, I boldly predicted Stuart Ward could lead our team off with a 2:03 leg. He did exactly that, because I am very smart and can see the future. The baton went around to Nathan Chan, Bennett Coulson, and Kevin Dick, as the quartet boasted a 9:09 finishing time, although the fancy-uniformed people again proved victorious by narrowest margins of about a minute and a half.

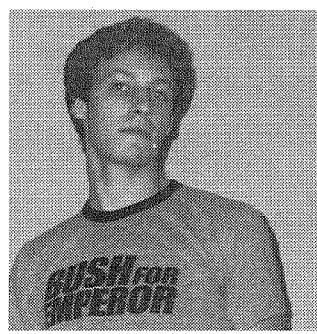
The highlight of the day came in the men's 4x400m relay. Despite missing two of its top runners due to mysterious circumstances, possibly involving midgets and cheerleaders' breasts, the team ran a season-best 3:28. Patrick Boyle won the lead-off leg and was succeeded by Ward, Kiesz, and Zach Higbee.

Elette Boyle triple jumped 33' 2", however despite the misleading name of the event, she did this only one time. Natalie Szewda vaulted 9' 6", but she had to use a pole to do it. Higbee also threw a javelin 98' 2". Cheered by the knowledge that he would be able to survive a nuclear holocaust by consuming small, mutant mammals that venture slightly closer than 100 feet away from him, Higbee eagerly awaits next week's meet, the Men's SCIAC Invite at Redlands on Friday.

The women's 4x100, 4x400, and 4x800 teams defeated UC San Diego, Cal State San Marcos, Cal State LA, Biola, and Cal Lu, all by utilizing their stock trick of intimidating the other teams into dropping out.

On Saturday, the women will compete in their last home meet of the year at the Women's SCIAC invite. Please come by the track at 1:00PM to cheer them on. It would be a nice thing to do and girls will like you if you pretend to be a nice person. For full results of the meet and other information completely irrelevant to your life, check out <http://running.caltech.edu/track.php>

CRC Co-Chair Statements



Dan Knoepflev

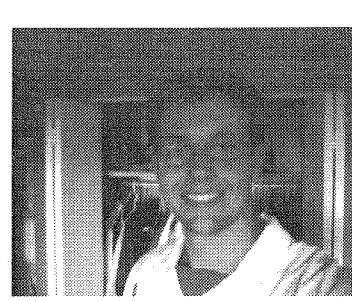
Over the past year, we have been well-served by our current CRC chair, Jeremy Leibs. Jeremy is a good friend (and roommate) of mine and I share his belief that the CRC is vital to protecting student life. I'm going to be a senior next year and, despite having broken plenty of rules over the past few years, I feel that the campus rules are important and beneficial. Their strength, however, lies in the Honor Code and the understanding that each infraction must be weighed individually.

On the whole, we are safe and responsible. I will work towards reasonable fire and drug and alcohol policies on the principle that our honor code is fundamentally about trust: these policies should build trust, not erode it. Among the complicated realities of substance use, there is an important truth: when drinking and drug use need not be hidden for fear of punishment, we are safer. Both these policies and the decisions of the CRC must balance liability and deterrence concerns with their impact on student safety and undergraduate life. Caltech is not like most other colleges: it is better. We should take pride in our unique student population--for instance, the latest Health Survey notes the fact that on average Caltech students have much more responsible attitudes towards alcohol than students at other schools--and give students the benefit of the doubt. Most of

the time, they deserve it.

Recent amendments to the ASCIT by-laws have given the CRC chair a vote on the BoD and with it a role in protecting student interests beyond the context of the CRC. The administration claims to want student input on their plans--I will seek out opportunities to remind the administration that student life is vital to their core goals and work to promote alternatives to misguided plans. While I admit the issues they face are often complex, some plans are clearly wrongheaded (e.g. 7-day board) and have obvious preferable alternatives. As a member of the BoD, I will work to help maintain the undergraduate community in spite of the many conditions that threaten it. To this end, I will support funding social activities to bring the houses together and counter the effects of the South House renovation and the increasing pressure for students to live off-campus.

With the campus facing a lot of unpleasant news, the CRC doesn't need radical changes--it needs good reps and a chair that can serve as a student advocate and provide a counterbalance to the faculty and administration voices on the committee. If you elect me as CRC chair, I will fight to preserve student life, ensure that benign offenses aren't unjustly punished, and give students a fair, pragmatic CRC.



RJ Krom

The CRC Student Chair. While not the most influential position on ASCIT, an important one nonetheless, especially at a time where the administration is trying to nickel and dime the students while trying to push through their own agenda. The CRC Student Chair has two main jobs; first to be on the Routing Committee with the BoC chair, Dean Hall, as well as Tom Mannion (of whom I have worked with before) and second to be a voting member on ASCIT.

The main position of the CRC is to deal with students who have committed a violation of sorts that is not sent to the BoC. It is important to have someone in a position like this that can deliver a realistic view to the administration, in order to be upfront with them while keeping the social structures and activities of Caltech intact. I promise to keep this realistic viewpoint towards the administration while letting the students continue to do what they usually do, which makes Caltech such a unique place.

The second job of the CRC is to be an active voting member of ASCIT. I for one see many problems with the way the administration has handled the budget cuts and want to do as much as I can to fix the rift that has occurred between the administration and the students while keeping the interests of the students at heart.

Since the results of the first election were so very close, with a margin of only one vote, I encourage as many people as possible to vote. Every vote counts and a decision must be made so that this can be put in the past and have a working CRC student chair. This will allow the BoD and Excomm to get on to more important things such as fixing existing holes in the by-laws.

Comments on the NCAA Proposal

BY: JOHN McNAMARA

The cut of NCAA sports will be a huge blow to overall student health and morale. It will permanently harm athletics here even after this so called "budget crises" is over. The lack of such sports will cause a change in a segment of the undergraduate culture as well as make Caltech uncompetitive to numerous prospective students.

A cut to the NCAA program as a whole cannot be temporary. Though the administration may claim in the next week that they will restore the program after the budget is resolved, this is not probable. At a recent NCAA meeting, there was a proposal to cap the number of Division III schools. Should Caltech drop their NCAA membership and this cap pass, Caltech will encounter difficulty in returning to the NCAA when the budget crisis is resolved.

Caltech athletics will suffer a serious blow should NCAA membership be dropped. Inter-collegiate athletics will be reduced to club status which means far fewer schools to play and a very limited playing experience will be available.

"Caltech epitomizes the spirit of the NCAA," said Tom Jurczak, water polo player, when I told him of this. "People here play the sport for the love of the game," he remarked, comparing Caltech's Division III status to the competitive nature of Division I schools.

What is this Division III of NCAA that we speak of? Division III, according to the NCAA website, is intended to "place special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants rather than on the spectators." This is ideal here because game attendance is usually lower than the number of players. Division III provides sports teams here the opportunity to compete with other teams in the area and take the sport to a higher level without taking all of a student athlete's time. This adds to the fun of the game and gives students a healthy pastime.

This level of competition and enjoyment of sports is not restricted to those who excelled in athletics in High School. Anyone can try out for a team and probably make it. There is no better example of Caltech principle of "collaboration, not competition" than in our NCAA sports.

There is a meeting today at 4pm to discuss this issue. E-mail your concerns to HYPERLINK "mailto:kohler@caltech.edu" kohler@caltech.edu before then. Furthermore, the Student Athletic Advisory Council (SAAC) is holding a meeting this Wednesday, March 1st in the Brown gym classroom and will no doubt discuss this. Contact your SAAC representative for your sport for the latest details on this developing story. In addition, if you would like to be a member of SAAC for next year, please attend the meeting.

ASCIT Board of Directors Minutes from the Olive Walk February 22, 2006

Present - Officers: Todd Gingrich, Vickie Pon, Csilla Felsen, Chris Gonzales, Nathan Donnellan, Christopher Watson, RJ Krom
Guests: Julia Ma, Dan Knoepfle
Absent - Jean Sun, Jon Senn, Craig Montuori

and writers for the Tech.

Vote: A vote was taken to require BoD officers not to publicize information related through BoD emails until the approval of the majority of the rest of the BoD is obtained. Approved (6Y/0N/0A).

IV. Elections Bylaws Proposal

- The BoD is encouraged to look over the proposed amendments to the bylaws and email changes and suggestions to Dan as soon as possible. Dan will collect suggestions and present them to the BoD within the next two weeks.

V. Bulletin Board

- The bulletin board on the Olive Walk by the mail stops drastically needs to be updated and revamped. The BoD will send personal pictures to Chris W. to collect.

- Vickie will organize getting the bulletin board cleaned up and filled during Spring Break.

VI. Installations Dinner

- Coming up on Thursday, March 2nd!

VII. Social Team

- Chris G. is finalizing the list of social team members and will introduce them to the BoD at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Pon

Note: This week's minutes are published online as well at donut.caltech.edu under ASCIT Info, Minutes.

Introducing

The Outside World

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

Explosion destroys Shiite mosque in Iraq

On Wednesday, Feb 22, a group of men disguised as Iraqi police detonated bombs under the dome of one of the holiest sites in Iraq, the Al Askariya mosque in Samarra. The dome is heavily damaged. The Shia believe the site is sacred because the 12th Imam, Al Mehdi, will appear at the mosque to bring salvation.

Bush defends United Arab Emirates control over ports

Despite opposition from both Democrats and Republicans over security

concerns, Bush defended a deal that would allow UAE to control management decisions in New Jersey, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Miami, and New Orleans ports. Bush argued that lawmakers need to "step up and explain why a Middle Eastern company is held to a different standard," since the ports were formerly controlled by a British company.

Mexican miners trapped in collapsed coal mine

Sixty-five miners remain unaccounted for since Monday's mine collapse; each miner had an oxygen supply to last for six hours.

Eight share \$365 million lottery win—largest in



history

Eight ConAgra workers from Lincoln, Nevada shared a winning Powerball ticket last Saturday. After taxes, each will receive \$15.5 million.

Abortion bill nears law in South Dakota

State legislators are sending an anti-abortion bill to the governor of South Dakota, who claims he will sign it. The bill outlaws abortion unless it threatens the life of the woman; doctors who perform illegal abortions will be sentenced to up to five years in prison.

Compiled from BBC News and CNN.

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