



Caltech basketball makes history as the 26-year losing streak crumbles



Hundreds of emotional Caltech fans rush the court as the buzzer sounds. The nail-biting 46-45 victory marked the end of a 310-lose streak against other conference teams.

- Provided by Mandy Gamble

World News: Snippets from CNN, NYT, and BBC

Red Crescent representatives in Libya declare flood of refugees to be a "humanitarian crisis." - BBC News

Six killed in a coup attempt against DR Congo's President Kabila – BBC News

Planned pro-democracy protest in China stanchured by huge police presence – CNN World News

French Foreign Minister Michele Alliot Marie resigns after criticism of her handling of Tunisian uprising – CNN World News

President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda easily wins fourth term election, records rap song – NY Times

Senator Harry Reid calls for end of legal brothels in Nevada – NY Times

Caltech a cappella performs at two venues

By Sandhya Chandrasekaran

STAFF WRITER

Over the past week, Caltech's a cappella groups performed on two different occasions.

On Friday, February 18, Caltech's Fluid Dynamics competed in the Absolut A Cappella annual group singing competition, hosted by USC.

Yesterday, February 27, Caltech's Out of Context, as well as Fluid Dynamics, hosted the annual Love Sucks concert, with groups from CSUN (Vocal Percussion Radio, VPR) and Claremont (Midnight Echo). Absolut was hosted by the USC Sirens, the first and only female a cappella group at USC.

Other competitors included four other USC teams (Khoir Practice, Troy Tones, SoCal Vocals, and the well-known Trojan Men) as well as the UCLA Scat-

tertones, who grabbed the awards for best vocal percussion and best overall performance to the dismay of USC.

The rain did pose some technical difficulties for the Tech team, half of whom missed the initial sound check because of unforeseen traffic.

However, this did not deter those in attendance from coming in huge numbers, as the theater was nearly packed.

Fluid Dynamics had prepared a three-song set list. Beginning with "Jessie's Girl," the group loosened up with a little dancing.

They followed this with "Viva la Vida," where lead vocalist Sarah Marzen worked to maintain the high emotions of the crowd.

The set ended with the ever-hopeful song, "Holding out for a Hero."

While the group did not win any of the awards that evening, they seemed to win the approval of the audience, whose cheers re-

sounded through the auditorium even before some of the songs ended.

The February 27 performance marked the fourteenth annual Love Sucks concert.

The decorations were well thought out and made Dabney Hall look quite appealing.

All four of the groups that performed had a set list that covered a variety of artists, including performances of VPR's version of "Kids" by MGMT, with excellent harmonies and rhythm, and Midnight Echo's rendition of the Justin Bieber song, "Baby". Caltech's OoC opened the show with five songs, followed by VPR and Midnight Echo. Caltech's Fluid Dynamics closed the show with a set list sung by five different vocalists, each of whom strived to provide a different vocal aspect to the performance. For most in attendance, the event turned out to be a pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

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MARCH 2, 2011

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

MCKINNEY WRITING COMPETITIONS

ATTENTION WRITERS! The Division of the Humanities & Social Sciences is pleased to announce the 65th Annual McKinney Competition.

This prize is awarded for excellence in writing. Only full-time students officially registered at Caltech as undergraduates are eligible to enter the competitions. This year, the McKinney prize will be given in two categories: poetry and prose fiction. Prize awards in each category are \$500. Each category will be judged by members of the Humanities Faculty. Work will be judged on quality of thought and effectiveness of writing.

Entry Requirements:

- o Each student is entitled to only one entry, per category, for the McKinney prize.
- o All entries must be typed and double-spaced, sent as a PDF attachment to elvington@hss.caltech.edu. Include your name, which prize and category you are submitting to in both the subject line of your email and your file label (i.e. SamStone-McKinney-ProseFiction.pdf).
- o Contestants should send submissions via email no later than 8:00 a.m., April 13, 2011.
- o Include your address and phone number in submissions.
- o For the McKinney poetry category, entrants may submit up to three poems.
- o Submissions of prose fiction for the McKinney entries should not exceed 12,000 words.
- o Entries will not be returned.
- o Previous winners in any one category are not eligible for competition in that category.

Winners will be announced in June, and the names of the winners will appear in the commencement program. The Faculty may divide the award in each category in case of more than one outstanding submission. If you have any questions, contact Prof. Kristine Haugen, haugen@hss.caltech.edu or Sini Elvington, elvington@hss.caltech.edu.

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ASCIT minutes

ASCIT Board of Director's Meeting – Minutes
February 22, 2011

Present: Old and New BoDs, Daniel Erenrich, Connor Wilson, Buster, Isaac Sheff, Elizabeth Decolvenaere, Breanna Denicola

Meeting called at ~10:15pm at Cherry on Top

President's Report (Hallacy):

- New BoD sworn in! Will Steinhardt came into Cherry on Top, chatted Hallacy up for a second, stole the ASCIT vanity license plate from under Hallacy's arm, and bolted to a waiting car to prevent the new BoD from swearing in. Hallacy swear's in upon the "ASCIT President" a.k.a. Adam Khan's old ASCIT notebook. The new BoD swears in upon the new ASCIT president a.k.a. Hallacy, by placing their left hand on Hallacy's face, arm, shoe, elbow, and chest. This tended to make reciting the oath difficult. Upon listening to the recording of the meeting, Hallacy just realized that a number of moles took the oath and are now ASCIT Presidents.
- Hallacy says some motivational things to the new BoD. They are likely lost to time.
 - We need a Secretary and people who are interested in helping out with campus student government. If interested, talk to a BoD member.

ARC Chair (Margaret Chiu):

- SFC preparation is in full swing. The Little T has asked the student chairs of the committees to put together survival guides for each major. Karthik and Margaret are working on implementation, but like the idea.

IHC Chair (Laura Conwill):

- Laura has heard complaints about the fences going in front of Lloyd and Ruddock. She says that students aren't so mad at the fence but more at the fact that we never had any input on the decision.
- Addison Rice has untied Hallacy's shoe and has stolen the shoelace.

Director of Operations (Diego Caporale):

- Diego has a list of all the people who have gotten Big T's this year.
 - He has a key to...something.
- People want SAC rooms. Diego is still learning the ropes, but should be ready to handle this soon.
- ASCIT Screening room is a mess. Diego and Hallacy will look into the damage this week.
- Annual Club funding will occur soon. People are wondering how to register. Diego is pointing them to the club registration process on Donut that was created last summer to streamline this process.

Treasurer (Mario Zubia):

- People want money; Mario gives people money. What a swell guy.
 - We gave the Veritas Forum \$250.
- Changing to a reimbursement system for clubs appears to have saved us \$9500. Dang.
 - Margaret wants more SFC money now.
 - Hallacy warns that clubs will want money now.
 - Hallacy and Mario have transition meetings soon.

Social Director (Prakriti Gaba):

- Addie and Prakriti are working on some Prefrosh Weekend events as well as planning for ASCIT formal.

Discussion:

- Midnight Donuts is tentatively set for March 2 11:59pm. Will be confirmed Monday afternoon. Addie suggests we do it on Thursday so that TND will send drunk people. Addie responds that they'll get drunk people anyway.
- Steinhardt drives by playing "We are the Champions..." And then loses the license plate later that night. Lovely.
 - The BoD would like staff members for the Ops, Soc Dir., and Treasurer.
- People want an off-campus formal. ASCIT will put out a survey asking if people want to go and if so, how much would tickets cost. The BoD is looking into cost cutting measures since Formal has a bad tradition of going way over budget.
- BoD meetings will occur weekly on Tuesday's at 10pm in SAC 15.
 - The BoD wants to see the cannon fire, so meeting adjourned at 10:49pm

Submitted by Chris Hallacy and Prakriti Gaba

Chem 1b Showdown: Was midterm rework reasonable?

Yes! Accept freebies!

By Michael Lauria
STAFF WRITER

In past years, Chem 1b had been considered a joke, a quick introduction to an elementary version of Chemistry designed to ensure a basic level of competence among students. Recently, however, the Chemistry department has decided to teach a course, which, in difficulty, is more akin to Freshman Physics and Mathematics classes. In light of this change, the latest Chem 1b midterm contained reasonable questions. Indeed, the Chem 1b lecturers had covered all of the material on the exam, and if certain parts were not memorable, the lecture slides were open for use. Unfortunately, the writers of the exam made a crucial error: it was too long. If not for the sheer volume of work to be done in three hours, I am confident the scores would have been much higher.

A mistake of this nature is not the end of the world. Grades are curved, and it is common to see extremely low averages on exams in upper-level classes as well. Nevertheless, overzealous Caltech frosh quickly complained to the TA's and lecturers and asked for an opportunity to rework the test. The idea was snatched up as a good way to incentivize learning from mistakes made on the exam. Credit was offered for one-third of the points corrected, and students were to have the weekend to return their midterms.

This solution was badly received, and again complaints winged their way to the inboxes of the TA's and professors responsible.

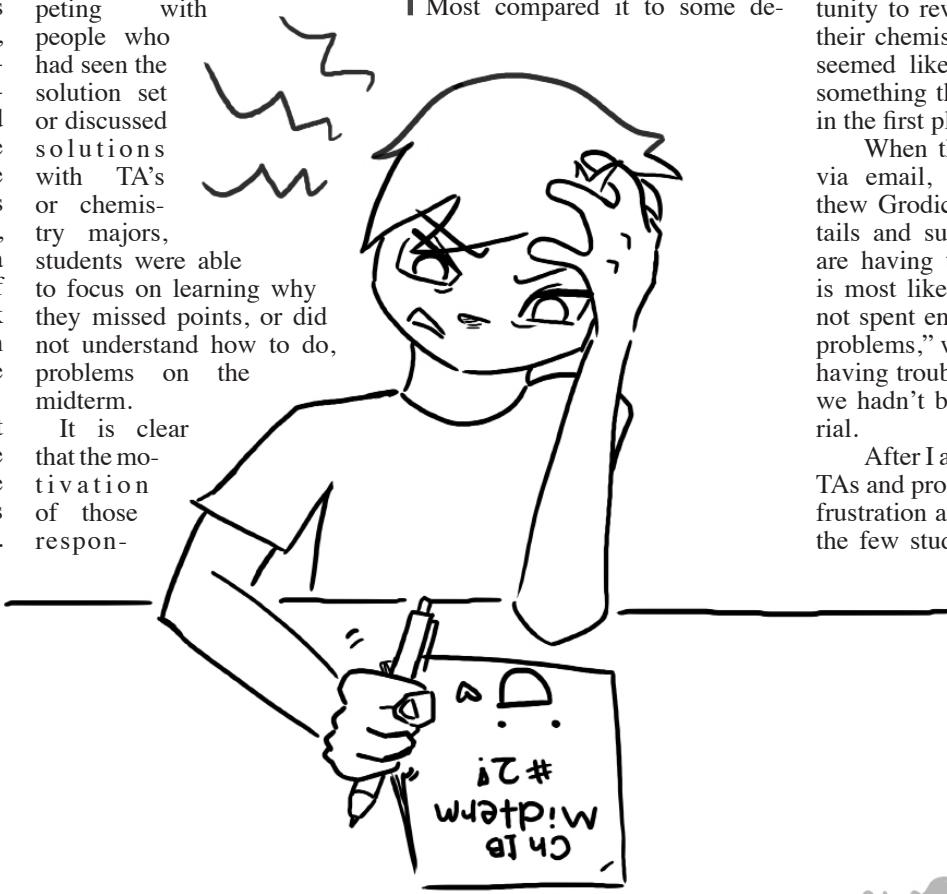
Solution sets had been posted for a short period of time, and many students, assuming that the test was over, had discussed answers with upper-class chemistry majors. Clearly the idea was a gross violation of the honor code. Those in charge countered with what became the final revision of their plan to get students to understand the material on the midterm.

The rework would happen as planned, but the due date was extended to Friday of the next week, and vitally, collaboration would be allowed.

With these new rules, the rework became an unequivocally good thing. Due to our collaborative culture, those who had an advantage were more than willing to share their knowledge.

Without the pressure of competing with people who had seen the solution set or discussed solutions with TA's or chemistry majors, students were able to focus on learning why they missed points, or did not understand how to do, problems on the midterm.

It is clear that the motivation of those respon-



sible for the rework opportunity were attempting to make the best of a bad situation. They intended the rework not necessarily to improve the course, but what students got out of it.

It is up to these people to learn from this experience and apply their newfound knowledge when they write next year's test.

Although nothing can correct the issues with the length of the original midterm, the rework gave us a chance to learn more chemistry, and furthermore, an opportunity for easy points.

rivative of rape, and the primary complaints were that we weren't given enough time (three hours, eight questions) and hadn't covered parts of the material in much, if any, depth. One question, for example, was on Huckel's Rule, a topic that was only mentioned on two slides out of hundreds, and hadn't been covered in any of the problem sets.

This by itself, however, wouldn't have been much of a problem. We're frosh and on pass/fail, and we've become accustomed to impossibly difficult

questions and tests. Everyone did poorly, but they couldn't fail all of us, so while we were of course upset with our scores, we knew that the final outcome wouldn't be much different than if it had been an easier test.

Unfortunately, the situation worsened when the TAs and professors received complaints that the test was too hard and that we should be offered an opportunity to rework it. Somehow in their chemistry-filled minds, this seemed like a good solution to something that wasn't a problem in the first place.

When they notified students via email, the head TA, Matthew Grodick, explained the details and suggested that "if you are having trouble with time, it is most likely because you have not spent enough time practicing problems," when in fact, we were having trouble with time because we hadn't been taught the material.

After I and others emailed the TAs and professors to explain our frustration and to make clear that the few students who had asked

for a rework were definitely not representative of the class as a whole, the deadline for the rework was extended and collaboration was al-

lowed, but no other changes were made.

It is my opinion, and one I share with many others, that this was not an acceptable "solution." The original test was bad enough. As any reasonable person could see, if you give a test to 200 students who were all admitted to Caltech and the average score is a 52%, the problem is with the test and with the course, and not with the students. Grodick's implication that we did poorly because we didn't study well enough was not only false but was an insult to

everyone in the class. The proper response would not have been to blame the students for a poorly written test, but rather to examine the way the tests are written and the way Chem 1b is taught, and to work to improve the course for future years and the remainder of this year.

The rework offer, then, was absolutely appalling, for it showed clearly that the goal of the TAs and even professors was not to make the course better or to make the test fairer, but was instead to shove extra and unexpected work onto the students.

Why? I don't know, but this way, they'll be able to report a higher average score to the option representative, to the ARC, and to whatever other people or groups are responsible for ensuring that the course is reasonable and informative. The core chemistry courses seem particularly resistant to change, so the less closely they're examined, the better for them.

I'll conclude by explaining what can and should be learned from this experience, even though those responsible for the course don't seem to be interested. First of all, some effort should be made to ensure that the tests match concepts from homework and from lectures. Problem sets are an appropriate place to learn new concepts, but tests are not.

Second, the course expectations should be made clear from the start; the wavering and rushed decisions about the rework were unacceptable and unjust. If the TAs expected the test to be hard, they should have said before we even took the test that there would be a rework opportunity, and they especially should have announced that before posting the solution set.

Finally, the professors should see this as an opportunity to examine what went wrong and to improve the course for future years, in the hopes that it will become more informative, more educational, and less notorious, even for students who don't plan to major in chemistry. Caltech emphasizes critical thinking. It should start with those in charge.



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GOP: Fiscally irresponsible, morally reprehensible, and baseless in actions

By Brandon Comella

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Republicans have a vendetta against Planned Parenthood. They have used their new majority in the House to vote 240-185, mostly along party lines, to approve the Pence amendment, which would, among other things, deprive Planned Parenthood of \$300 million in funding.

These funds go towards many services, including:

- 1 million cervical cancer screenings
- 830,000 breast cancer exams
- Contraceptives for 2.5 million patients
- 4 million HIV & STD tests and treatments

If that money goes to provide so many essential and benign services, then why were so many Congressmen talking about the need to prevent federal funds going to abortion, itself a perfectly legal health service?

It is apparently because they are anti-women, and anti-family planning as they know absolutely no federal funds go to provide abortions. In fact, abortions are specifically banned by the Hyde amendment from receiving those funds. Congressman Pence, the man who introduced the amendment, said that it is only "technically true" that federal funds are prohibited from going to abortions.

As anyone who has every taken a true/false exam knows, you get the choices of true, false, and "technically true".

In the opinion of the Republicans, it is worth getting rid of all this good in order to attack an organization that does something with which they disagree. By this logic every hospital in America should be shut down, the army should be disbanded, and no one should ever pay their taxes.

Supporters of the Pence amendment tried to disguise their hatred of Planned Parenthood behind the guise of reducing the deficit. However, according to

Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY), for every \$1 invested in family planning, taxpayers save about \$4 in Medicaid costs.

So by getting rid of funding, they are in fact adding an additional \$1 billion to the national debt.

So as Congress tries to balance the budget, it is targeting programs that affect women and children.

While representatives are passing billion dollar tax cuts for corporations and the upper class, they are cutting millions of dollars for programs that help the most vulnerable citizens, such as \$747 million for a nutrition program for women and children. Just as the mathemagicians in Washington think they can close a \$1.1 trillion deficit by only focusing on a \$440 billion section, they think that reducing spending by a few million dollars will somehow

Even pro-life representatives...spoke up against the bill, admitting that it would increase the number of abortions as millions of people would be denied access to...family planning services...

to contraceptives and other family planning services, thereby increasing the number of unplanned and undesired pregnancies. Representative Christopher Smith (R-NJ) tried to sway votes by graphically vilifying the procedure while Rep Steve King (R-IA) told the House he didn't think anyone there could stomach watching an abortion. Adding some diversity to the 93% male GOP-led de-

I'm sure they were surprised when their colleague Rep Jackie Speier (D-CA) reveled that she had undergone that procedure. She noted that she had meant to speak about different matters, but was so disgusted by the behavior of her colleagues that she just had to speak up.

She revealed that she had to terminate her pregnancy after complications arose that would

To them, halting aid to those 191 women who received assistance last year was more important than trying to put 14 million unemployed Americans back to work.

Another bill would have let hospitals and doctors turn away a dying woman rather than terminate the pregnancy to save her life.

Perhaps the worst bill was one introduced into the South Dakota legislature that would have *legalized the murder* of doctors who provide abortions.

Since Planned Parenthood has to fly in *the only abortion-providing doctor* in the state every week, with reduced funding,

South Dakotans may have to drive up to five hours just to find the nearest clinic.

While the South Dakotan bill may seem bad, it is far from the worst.

Another state legislature, Georgia, is considering a bill so horrendously unconstitutional that it should make every American shudder (No, not Arizona, they are still too busy trying to make being Hispanic illegal).

This bill would *make it a crime for a woman to have a miscarriage*, if she cannot prove there was no "human involvement".

Considering about 1 out of 4 pregnancies terminate through miscarriage, many times for unknown reasons, millions of women would have to put their grieving on hold in order to go to court to defend themselves.

This Georgia State Representative wants to criminalize not only a legal medical procedure but also an uncontrollable, *biological function*. So what punishment does he think is fair to inflict upon a woman for losing a child? Life in prison, or death.

Yes, you read that correctly.

This bill would impose the death penalty upon a woman for something that she has no control over.

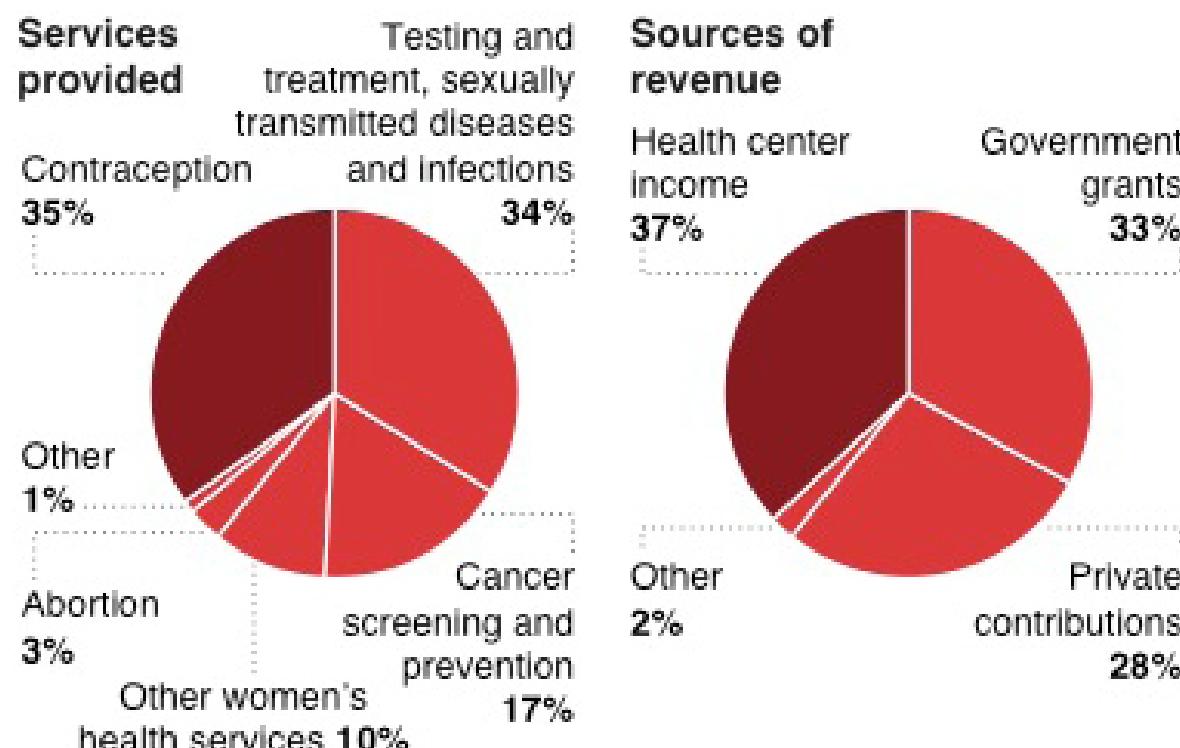
For being pro-life these lawmakers seem to be advocating killing a lot of people.

Hopefully the bill will be shot down in the Senate, but if not, President Obama will surely have enough sense to veto it.

Maybe next election season Americans will realize Republicans are less about reducing the deficit and more about reducing human rights.

Planned Parenthood

The 95-year-old organization is facing withering attacks, including attempts in Congress to strip it of federal grants.



SOURCE: Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Annual Report 2008-2009 AP

balance out reducing income by billions.

Even pro-life representatives such as Stephen Lynch (D-MA) spoke up against the bill, admitting that it would increase the number of abortions as millions of people would be denied access

bate, Michelle Bachman (R-MN) chimed in, giving her idea of the typical day of a woman who uses Planned Parenthood services.

Bachman stated that those women "[do] their grocery shopping, [pick] up Starbucks, and [stop] off for an abortion".

have resulted in a miscarriage as well as possibly prevent her from having further children.

She provided a human face to contrast the image some Congressmen were putting forth that somehow, women like to abort fetuses for fun.

Republicans have become frenzied in their crazed quest to deprive women of legal medical services.

They had attempted to redefine rape as "forcible rape". Had their perverted idea of justice become law, women who were minors, mentally handicapped, unconscious, drugged, or victims of incest would only be "sorta raped" and would not receive federal assistance if they had become pregnant.

So what punishment does he (Georgia State Representative) think is fair to inflict upon a woman for losing a child? Life in prison, or death. Yes, you read that correctly.

Why you should discipline your computer

By Eugene Vinitsky
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In case you didn't see Jeopardy! two weeks ago let me give you a quick recap. The three-day match was supposed to be an epic showdown between two great Jeopardy! champions, Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter, and the brainchild of the IBM DeepQa project, Watson. Collectively Jennings and Rutter have earned over six million dollars in Jeopardy! competitions: Jennings in a 74-game unbroken win streak and Rutter in three consecutive wins in the Jeopardy! Tournament of Champions. In the days leading

up to the match I heard so many predictions and even occasional suggestions of odds: "2:1 for Watson on the first day," "Jennings on the second day because the questions are too complex," "Rutter to win all three days." None of the guesses were even close. In the first day of competition the predictions seemed on target: Watson pulled into a large early lead solving questions about the Beatles that any person could have pulled off of Wikipedia, but Rutter roared back to tie the monstrous machine at \$5,000.

The next day was simply humiliating for the human race. While Jennings fumed at his inferior reflexes, the machine raced

ahead to get to a 35,734-dollar lead over 10,400 for Jennings and 8,400 for Rutter. By the final day of the tournament, I would not have been surprised to see Jennings cry salty, salty tears as he watched the scores showing that the computer beat him with a final score of 77,145: a number cruel down to the decimal place. I watched this match sitting in Ricketts lounge surrounded by at least thirty human compatriots, booing at the weakness of the fleshy competitors and cheering every time that the machine showed another of its algorithmic flaws.

While I couldn't help but laugh at a machine that thought

Toronto was a U.S. city, I was shocked to see how well a computer working basically on associations was able to guess at answers with 97% certainty, and I had the sensation that each burst of laughter coming from the crowd was more from a feeling of relief.

While I have to congratulate IBM for its amazing success, and would love to understand just how they did it, it is occasionally worrying to realize how inefficient of a machine a human being is.

When our knowledge becomes sufficiently advanced, it's likely that we will build something that surpasses ourselves in every aspect, and from then on it's going to be "Get to the

choppa!" everywhere and bulky Austrian bodybuilders running around dodging explosions while alternately trying to kill or protect the human race.

I'd just like to raise a point that Arthur C. Clarke made in one of his short stories: while the brain has on average 700 trillion connections, it's conceivable that at some point we will build a data system that has just as many connections.

It's possible, though perhaps not plausible, that this system could function just as a brain does. So yes, laugh at Jeopardy, but now and then just smack your computer a couple of times to remind it to be obedient.

Vishnu's View: A review of today's new music albums

Radiohead's The King of Limbs may not be its best, but still delivers aural pleasure

By Vishnu Manoranjan
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I might be writing this too early. Like most listeners, I can spend weeks trying to decipher a Radiohead album. But the world of journalism compels me to scratch something out, so here it is. Let's call it: The King of Limbs - First Impressions.

Why do we even listen to Radiohead? I mean, these guys are pretty damn weird and their music follows suit: odd rhythms, odd structures, odd vocals.

But cutting through all that oddness, is something human, something that resonates.

Great experimentalists produce art that is both boundary-pushing and palatable, filtering human emotion through an alien

frame of mind (see: Thelonious Monk). Radiohead is no exception. The King of Limbs may not be the album that Radiohead fans want it to be.

It doesn't up the ante like Kid-A or redefine beauty like In Rainbows. It's not a landmark, but it's still a Radiohead album. It's still compassionate and alien and beautiful.

The King of Limbs feels short. Maybe that's on purpose. Some fans theorize that this is just the first half of the album, with a second half still to come (the last song is called Separator).

In any case, The King of Limbs is comprised of eight, well-formed songs.

They are aurally delightful, if not groundbreaking. In fact, the soundscapes displayed here feel like familiar territory.

Many of the flowing textures are reminiscent of In Rainbows while the itching beats point back to Kid-A and Hail To The Thief.

In typical Radiohead fashion, the songs make good use of brooding ostinatos and Thom Yorke's pleading falsetto. The first half of the album trembles and shakes restlessly, while the second half inhabits a realm of cool contemplation.

Album highlights include Feral (anxious, tension-building), Lotus Flower (pulsating, catchy), and Giving up the Ghost (minimalist, vulnerable, brilliant).

The King of Limbs is not the album of the decade; it's not even the album of the year.

But it's a beautiful album nonetheless, a Radiohead album nonetheless, and that's good enough for now.



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Old Pasadena's IceHouse features stand-up comedian Greg Proops

By HongAn Nguyen

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On last Friday's rainy night, four Caltech students crossed Mentor Ave River and ran down a sketchy alley, just two buildings away from a medical marijuana evaluation center. Once in front of the brightly-lit polar bear IceHouse Comedy Club sign, they met five more fellow Lloydies and Skurves waiting to get in on their shared ticket deal.

One of them had won a raffle the IceHouse held for ten tickets to its shows, either for free on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday or for five dollars each on Friday and Saturday. As it turns out, among all Ricketts members there are at least 4 raffle winners, so getting these tickets does not appear to be particularly difficult.

However, the abundance of free or discounted tickets does not imply low quality shows at the IceHouse. For example, the IceHouse hosted SNL alums Norm MacDonald and Dana Carvey last month, Bill Maher

last Monday, and will host Bobby Lee of MadTV in March. When the nine Techers went, world-trekking satirist Greg Proops, a frequent guest of "Whose Line Is It Anyway?", headlined the show.

Once the Techers were all seated on an elevated black leather bench in the back, a waitress took their orders. One Skurve paid the minimum drink order, two small Sprites for eight dollars and

out later, there are questions as to what type of person would come to the IceHouse and gravelly say, "Don Perignon, s'il vous plait?"

As common with comedy clubs, the headliner was preceded by two warm up comedians who were referred to as "the chick and the black guy."

Most notable about the warm-up acts was the "black guy's" alternative interpretation of traffic

crossing. There were also other more vulgar ones, including an interpretation of the many no U-turn signs in West Hollywood.

As headliner Greg Proops took the stage, the audience enthusiastically applauded.

Because of the storm-watch posted in the area, he began with the obligatory joke about California's panic over "two drops" of rain.

Hawaii. Once done with that bit, he went into a satire about raising children (beat them), the 70's (drive station wagons hands-free), and flip flops (hide men's feet).

Proops used television networks to tie the various parts of his act together.

At one point, an audience member left to go to the restroom right as he was about to go into the History Channel. Proops reacted, saying he would not continue with his stand up until that person returned.

He lived up to his promise. After a long successful comedic pause, Proops treated the remaining audience to his improvisational skills, riffing on the IceHouse's menu, including the Don Perignon, and the traffic signs left over from the previous comic.

In what seemed like an hour for the audience, the nearly two-hour show was over, and the Techers had to split the nine-person bill. However, they appeared satisfied with the show and soon left to face the two very large drops falling from the sky.



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2.bp.blogspot.com

Malbec Argentinian Bistro: Restaurant, or Chandler food gone incognito?

By Jennifer Hu and Helena Zhang

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Last weekend we dined at *Malbec* Argentinean Bistro at 1001 E Green Street. Menu and reservation information can be found at <http://www.malbeccuisine.com>, but it's not crucial to get a reservation – it wasn't that full Sunday night.

However, this might have to do with the fact that we arrived early, around 5:30 PM, before the frenzied rush for dinner usually begins.

Atmosphere:

It was pretty dim, but not completely dark like the really fancy restaurants, which hints that it's somewhere in the middle of the "niceness" chain. Overall it was pretty cozy.

There are two closed off round-tables, good for private parties, but if you want a romantic private dinner don't sit at the rest of the tables, which are in close proximity with each other. Snippets of the conversation of the couple sitting at the adjacent table drifted into our ears (but of course we didn't eavesdrop).

Price:

Entrées range from \$15-\$30. If you want to burn lots of money, appetizers are from \$6 to \$10 and soups and salads are about \$10 (there's also a crazy salad available for \$22 for all you die-hard salad fans out there).

Food quality: The bread came with a parsley, garlic, and olive



Provided by Helena Zhang

oil dressing that created a pleasant amalgamation. Unfortunately, things went rapidly downhill after that.

For the first entrée, we ordered the Napolitanas de Lomo (\$16.95), which is a breaded beef tenderloin steak with ham, tomatoes, and melted cheese on top with mashed potatoes and vegetables on the side.

The presentation was subpar for the price, as you can see in the photo—it has an uncanny resemblance to much cheaper Chandler entrées. Unfortunately, it also tasted like the worst of Chandler food.

The breading became really soggy due to the ham, tomatoes, and cheese (or maybe reheating), like that kind of moist breading in microwaved frozen food that you eat in sad solidarity on weekends in your dorm room.

Needless to say, I did not expect to taste such an abomination at a semi-fancy restaurant. In addition, I couldn't really tell that

the thin layer of meat between the breading was beef, which was also worrisome.

As for the sides, the sautéed vegetables were buttery and flavored with herbs, but overall unmemorable—it was a failed attempt at being better than dining hall vegetables, but one shouldn't expect more from a restaurant that primarily caters to meat-lovers.

The second entrée we ordered was the Suprema Rellena (\$16.95), which consisted of breaded chicken breast stuffed with spinach, shiitake mushroom, and Spanish Manchego (a kind of sheep cheese), accompanied with the same sides.

Unlike the breading in Napolitanas de Lomo, the breading on this dish was crispy—unfortunately, it was also rather greasy and seemed to ooze oil with each bite.

On the other hand, the chicken breast was tender, and the

flavor of the cheese complemented the dish well. The vegetables were identical to those served with the previous dish, and the mashed potatoes lackluster and flavorless (besides salt), but at least the overall dish was slightly more palatable.

Upon reflection, our great expectations, arising from mostly positive reviews on Yelp, were cruelly dashed.

If you have to come here, you should probably order something else, such as the skirt steak, which comes highly recommended from the Internet.

Also, don't forget to lower your expectations; otherwise, you might end up as per-

plexed and disappointed as we were.

Service:

There seemed to be only two waiters on staff for the whole restaurant and we were mostly ignored (probably because we looked like poor college students while other people were well-dressed adults), but that's far from the worst thing about our dining experience.

Overall grade:

One of us gives it a C, the other a B-, for a glowing average of C+.

Editor's note: Caltech does not perform grade inflation.



A less-than-savory Napolitanas de Lomo stares menacingly up from its plate.

TACIT's *Three Musketeers* takes Caltech community by storm

By Angad Rekhi

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Comme je marchais à ma place dans l'amphithéâtre, je ne savais pas que les premières cinq minutes de la pièce étaient en français. Yet, like this article, the play did indeed begin in French, to the surprise of everyone in the audi-

The play was narrated by alum Todd Brun, who played a funny and believable Alexandre Dumas and kept the story going at times when the plot could not.

Freshman Alex Jose as d'Artagnan was a great representative of the hero journey, starting as a clumsy "country bumpkin" and finding himself through his adventures in Paris; his physi-

villains, the corny romance, and of course, the duel scenes. The play sagged a little after the intermission, but was rejuvenated by a twist in the plot.

After the curtains closed, I had a chance to speak with three of the swashbuckling cast members of the performance – Alex Jose, Raj Katti (Aramis), and Karan Gupta (Basille).

These three actors, all freshmen, found that one of the hardest parts of performing was keeping a straight face – in the words of Alex, this production was "cheesy as hell," and even looking at a friend onstage would sometimes drive them to laughter.

Indeed, jokes ranged from a pun on Gandhian philosophy to obvious sexual references (that the audience thoroughly enjoyed).

Luckily, the performance was free of any accidental outbursts on the part of the actors, save the occasional smile.

I also had the pleasure of interviewing Lee Arenberg, who had nothing but praise for his colleagues. He stated that the cast consisted of good actors with great passion, which was evidenced by the time commitment that was needed for the production: about 5 hours daily near opening day and 12 hours on weekends.

Lee's favorite part of the directing process is the audience's reaction, which was energetic even for the Sunday matinee show.

Lee told me that the hardest part of working with Techers

ence except for Jean-Lou Chameau.

TACIT's production of Dumas' The Three Musketeers opened with the King of Caltech playing the King of France, and it kept the audience engaged and entertained all the way through the performance.

The play, directed by Brian Brophy and Lee Arenberg (who starred as Pintel in Pirates of the Caribbean), featured a number of actors and actresses from throughout the Caltech community.

cal humor and sense of timing contributed greatly to the performance.

Cardinal Richelieu (Gary Olsen, alum) and Milady de Winter (Ashley Stroupe, JPL) were the undisputed sinister antagonists of the play, and the actors portrayed them well.

Highlights of the show included French traditional songs ("Chevaliers de la table ronde" happily reminded me of my French class in high school), the humorous breaking of the fourth wall by the



The King's court attends a ball, a clever ruse by the Cardinal to expose the Queen's infidelity.

was teaching them to stop thinking; he explained that we are used to showing our work on problem sets, while in a play the point is to show only the final result.

He was right, and in TACIT's The Three Musketeers, the final result was delightfully cheesy, adventurous, and brilliant, a definite success for Caltech acting.



The Musketeers, along with d'Artagnan's sister Sabine, deliver their iconic motto of "All for one and one for all!"

Oscar and Razzie awards in-review

The 83rd Annual Academy Award Winners

Best Picture: "The King's Speech"

Best Actor: Colin Firth ("The King's Speech")

Best Actress: Natalie Portman ("Black Swan")

Best Supporting Actor: Christian Bale ("The Fighter")

Best Supporting Actress: Melissa Leo ("The Fighter")

Best Animated Feature Film: "Toy Story"

Best Director: Tom Hooper ("The King's Speech")

Best Adapted Screenplay: "The Social Network" (Aaron Sorkin)

Contribution to history: Melissa Leo dropped the first onstage F-bomb in Oscar history.

The 31st Annual RAZZIE Awards

Worst Picture: "The Last Airbender"

Worst Actor: Ashton Kutcher ("Killers" and "Valentine's Day")

Worst Actress: The Four Gal Pals: Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon ("Sex and the City 2")

Worst Supporting Actor: Jackson Rathbone ("The Last Airbender" and "Twilight Saga: Eclipse")

Worst Supporting Actress: Jessica Alba ("The Killer Inside Me," "Little Fockers," "Macete," and "Valentine's Day")

Worst Eye-Gouging Mis-Use of 3-D: "The Last Airbender"

Worst Director: M. Night Shyamalan ("The Last Airbender")

Worst Screenplay: "The Last Airbender" (M. Night Shyamalan)

Contribution to history: The category "Worst Eye-Gouging Mis-Use of 3-D" was especially made for the 2010 movie season.

Hallet Smith Competition

The Division of the Humanities & Social Sciences is pleased to announce the annual Hallett Smith Competition for the finest essay devoted to Shakespeare.

Only full-time, officially registered undergraduates are eligible to enter the competition.

All submissions must be typed and double-spaced and should not exceed 12,000 words.

The essay may be one prepared for an English class or may be specifically written for this competition. No student may submit more than one essay.

All contestants must submit a PDF attachment to elvington@hss.caltech.edu no later than April 13, 2011.

This year's prize will be \$350, though it may divided if there is more than one outstanding submission.

For more information, contact Prof. George Pigman, gwp@hss.caltech.edu, or Sini Elvington, elvington@hss.caltech.edu.

Caltech fencing excels in Chicago

Several Techers qualify for regionals



Above, a scary man in a mask attacks innocent bystanders with a sword while wearing a white jumpsuit.
-Provided by www.gocaltech.com

By Stanford Schor
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On February 5, the Caltech fencing team flew out to the Windy City to participate in Northwestern's annual invitational tournament: Northwestern Duals. The competition lasted for two days and over a dozen teams were present, including powerhouses Princeton (ranked 6th for men and 4th for women) and Notre Dame (ranked 1st for men and 1st for women).

Early Saturday morning the team mobilized and proceeded to the venue where the women began fencing for the first half of the day. After facing very tough competition and losses to Princeton, Temple, and Notre Dame, the women's saber squad eked out a one-bout win against Wayne State and performed very well overall, winning two bouts against Princeton, three against Temple, and

one against Notre Dame. Near the end of the day the women's foil team was also able to secure a bout against both Notre Dame and Wayne State.

In the afternoon the men of Caltech faced off against Notre Dame, Wayne State, University of North Carolina, and Northwestern University, which was, ironically, the only non-NCAA team at the competition. Fencing teams generally only have three fencers for each weapon, so the four-man men's epee team took turns joining Jeff Han, the sole saber fencer. After a loss to Notre Dame, the men's epee team handily defeated Wayne State. The epee fencers went on to beat UNC and ended the day with a close loss to Northwestern.

Sunday went better for the women of Caltech, and they posted three consecutive wins against Detroit, Fairleigh Dickinson, and Cleveland State, each by a large

margin. They wrapped up the day with losses to North Carolina and Lawrence, but the women's saber team kept a close score in both matches.

On the second day the men defeated Cleveland State and Lawrence, but lost to Detroit and Princeton.

Still, each of the squads had a good showing and the team shared a proud moment when, in the last bout of the day, senior undergraduate and former Ricketts House president William Steinhardt beat Princeton's top fencer with his usual flourish.

By the end of the tournament, six Caltech fencers had qualified for NCAA Western Regionals: Vanessa Burns and Laura Decker for saber; Anson Lam, Terry Lee, and Stanford Schor for epee; and Eugene Vinitsky for foil.

The Regional competition will be held on March 5 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

Weekly Scoreboard

February 25, 2011

Baseball
at Occidental
L, 14-9 Final

February 22, 2011

Men's Basketball
vs. Occidental
W, 46-45 Final Senior Night

Women's Basketball
vs. Occidental
L, 82-35 Final Senior Night

Upcoming Events

March 4, 2011

Men's Tennis
at Redlands

Baseball
vs. Whittier
2:30 PM

March 5, 2011

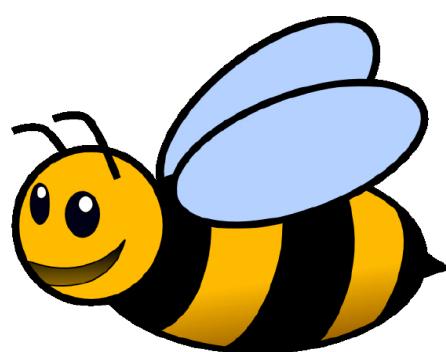
Fencing
at Air Force
9:00 a.m. (NCAA West Regional)

Track & Field
at SCIAC 4-Way (Occidental)
10:30 a.m.

Women's Tennis
vs. Redlands
10:00 AM

Baseball
at Whittier
11:00 AM, 2:30 PM

Men's Tennis
at Biola
12:00 PM



Buckey the Beaver says:

**"A second sports page?? That's
UN-BEE-LIEVABLE!"**

California Institute of Technology
© Street Characters 2008



Caltech men's basketball wins!

Media coverage perpetuates stereotypes, makes everybody feel warm and fuzzy inside



A thousand huzzahs for the basketball team, pictured above making gang signs.

-Provided by Mandy Gamble

By Amol Kamat

SPORTS EDITOR

As most of you hopefully know by now, the Caltech men's basketball team won its first conference game in 26 years, beating Occidental College to

break the record 310-game streak. Despite shooting just under 25-percent from the field, the Beavers pulled off the 46-45 victory with a free throw from Ryan Elmquist and a missed buzzer-beater by some despondent Oxy player, sending the Beavers fans into a frenzy

books, forever to be remembered only as the school Barack Obama went to for two years and as the team that Caltech beat.

After coach Oliver Eslinger had been drenched by the water cooler and given a rather touching postgame interview, the "party" began. The cannon was fired,

terrifying a few studious Techers who did not even know Caltech had a basketball team. The administration went to Ralph's and splurged on cupcakes and carrot sticks, which was oddly similar to when my little league baseball team won its first playoff game, except that we had Capri Sun, which everybody knows is much better than CDS lemonade.

As it was a weeknight, the party died quickly, as everybody returned to work (basketball team, take a note from the soccer team and only win on Fridays and Saturdays). Almost as impressive as the game was the ensuing media coverage.

By the time the cannon had fired, ESPN and the LA Times had posted stories about the game and a YouTube video of the game-winning free throw had accumulated close to 5,000 hits (by morning, that would be 35,000, and it now stands at over 100,000). Yahoo! ran a story that haunted my homepage for days about Elmquist's post Caltech plans, which everybody in the entire world now knows about.

The New York Times had a particularly humorous article, as did the San Francisco Chronicle. Sportscenter did a nice piece on it, though they flubbed a few lines.

It is, of course, my duty as Caltech Sports Editor (a title that will get you nowhere in life) to wade through all of these articles from "real newspapers" and bring you the best lines. From the San Francisco Chronicle, we have "Call it Revenge of the Nerds." From the LA Times: "Easy as pi" and "Indeed, school President Dr.

Jean-Lou Chameau boogied, and Nobel laureate Dr. Robert Grubbs basked, and a day later their pom-poms were still shaking." From the New York Times: "Attention may now shift to the school's baseball team, which has lost 412 consecutive conference games since 1988, and 170 consecutive games over all, dating to 2003."

Heard at Caltech: "Hey, we have more Nobel Prizes than shooting percentage!"

Almost every article I read seemed awestruck that Dr. Grubbs was in attendance, as well as that Collin Murphy is from Wasilla.

Almost all of them also commented that it was the first time that we did not return to our homework sets, which, of course is not true. Many a night have I chosen not to do my problem sets. Tuesday was not one of those nights. Overall, it was a night for old stereotypes to be broken (for a little while, anyways) and new ones to be formed. In my professional opinion, I think the true key to the team's victory was the fact that dessert was served between games, instead of meat sandwiches, but that could just be me.

Whatever the reason for their victory, I sincerely congratulate the basketball team. Maybe the administration will spend some money on the other Caltech teams now.

Also the women's team lost 82-35 to Occidental. They end the season 0-25, while Oxy were the regular season champions. There was really no media coverage of this game, so I think that makes me the BEST SPORTS REPORTER IN THE WORLD. Cool.

Caltech baseball team's bats falter against Pomona, CMS

By Blaine Matulevich

KEN BURNS AFICIANADO

After a strong start to their season, which occurred even with a complete lack of pulled pork sandwiches, Caltech's baseball program has stumbled a bit, dropping consecutive series to two tough SCIAC opponents, Pomona-Pitzer and CMS.

At home on February 11, the Beavers found themselves up against the defending conference champion Pomona-Pitzer Sage Hens, currently ranked 18th in the SCIAC. The underdog Beavers battled bravely, entering the seventh inning with only a 5-0 deficit; but the Sage Hens would

not be denied, eventually pulling away for a 10-0 victory. Tech's Rob Rosenberg threw a strong game, allowing only three earned runs in six innings against one of the hardest-hitting teams in the league. His effort, however, was overshadowed by Pomona's pitchers, who shut out Caltech and allowed only 3 hits all game.

Pomona exploded out of the gate the following day, picking up 24 hits in a 29-1 rout of the beleaguered Beavers. Caltech batters continued to struggle, pick-

ing up only 6 hits, compared to 10 strikeouts for Pomona pitchers. Pomona third baseman Teddy Bingham knocked in nine runs, a personal best. However, Caltech rebounded, refusing to go down without a fight in the final game of the series.

First baseman Daniel Sexton, 2-2 with two runs scored in the game, managed to tie the game at 1-1 in the third inning, but the Sage Hen bats just could not be silenced. Caltech pushed more runs across late in the game, but it was too little too late, and the Beavers fell 14-4.

Caltech's hitters remained noticeably quiet as the Beavers traveled to Arce Field to take on the CMS Stags last weekend. In the first contest, Tech pitching remained surprisingly strong and Rosenberg kept the game close, but a few poorly timed miscues let CMS open up a safe lead. Stag pitchers struck out 14 Beavers and allowed no hits, and CMS took the game 11-0. The second contest of the afternoon stayed even closer, with starter Brian Pensirini allowing only one earned run through 6 innings and closer Scott Yantek providing strong relief; however the bats still lagged behind. A Tech rally in the final inning was

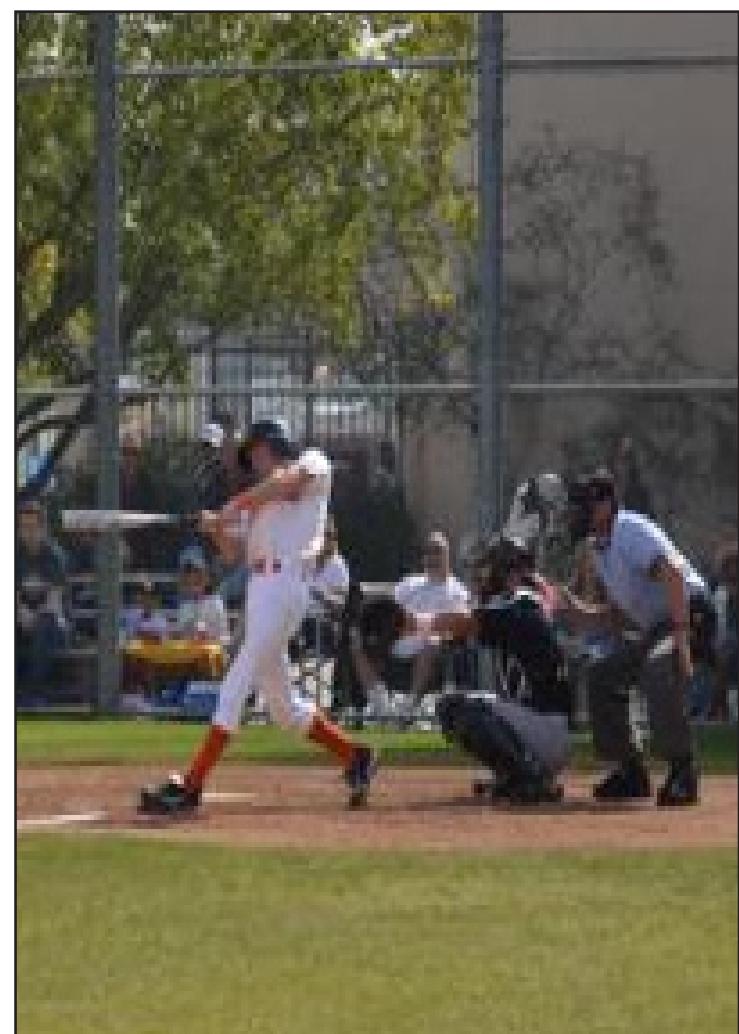
stopped short, and CMS prevailed 9-1. Although obviously not the result that Caltech was hoping for, optimism remains.

Tech allowed less runs to both opponents than last season, when CMS put up almost twice as many runs. According to Coach John D'Auria, the team "can take a lot of good things" away from these competitive games, and will hopefully take the lessons learned into the rest of conference play.

Notably, after the basketball team's long-awaited victory over Occidental College, baseball has become the proud owner of Caltech's most impressive streak, currently at 170 consecutive games and 412 conference games, dating back to 1988.

At the Beavers' last contest, a doubleheader on Monday, Feb. 28 at home against the very same Occidental Tigers, the Beavers came tantalizingly close to clutching a win, with a score in the second game of 3-1.

What would a win against Oxy mean? In the words of dedicated fan Grayson Chadwick, "the Oxy athletic department will crumble into dust, which we will collect and bring back to Caltech to build a monument in our honor."



Above, Blaine Matulevich demonstrates what baseball often looks like. Usually, the opposing team does a better job of this, but whatever.

-Provided by www.gocaltech.com

Caltech Glory: Photos of the triumph



The top 25 things that you'll never hear at Caltech

by Casey Glick

Contributions from: Carol Wang Laura Conwill Giordon Stark
 Xida Zheng Abhiram Chivukula Rishi Chandi

1)	2)	3)	4)	5)
I got this great shampoo from a friend in Dabney	Let's keep out of trouble and head over to Blacker	I love the relaxing evenings I spend	Shall we grab a soda with the Pageboy	I wish Fleming would take Interhouse sports seriously for once
6)	7)	8)	9)	10)
I'm bored. Let's go to Lloyd	Boy the Averites can party!	I actually think Ruddock House is cooler than my house	I feel bad for my overworked friends at state schools	I have a girlfriend, so I'll only take 3 classes this term
11)	12)	13)	14)	15)
My bf should spend more time leveling his paladin up	My massive muscles get in the way while studying	I should really stop spending so much time at the beach	I wish I hadn't transferred to GPS	The MechE's deserve a break this term
16)	17)	18)	19)	20)
It's too hard to get a job as a CS major	I can't wait to put what I learned in Math1a to use!	I feel so well rested today!	I wish that we could take more classes as a ChemE	My professor teaches so much it impedes his research
21)	22)	23)	24)	25)
I didn't expect everything to be this easy	Caltech students are too extroverted	More classes should assign unlimited time finals	I think I'll fail a class this term so I can stay on core	If only I could get rid of this harem

MCCLURE WRITING COMPETITIONS

ATTENTION WRITERS! The Division of the Humanities & Social Sciences is pleased to announce the annual Gordon McClure Memorial Communications Prize.

This prize is awarded for excellence in writing. Only full-time students officially registered at Caltech as undergraduates are eligible to enter the competitions. This year, the McClure prize will be given for the best non-fiction prose in three categories: English, History and Philosophy. Prize awards in each category are \$500. Each category will be judged by members of the Humanities Faculty. Work will be judged on quality of thought and effectiveness of writing.

Entry Requirements:

- o Each student is entitled to only one entry, per category, for the McClure Prize.
 - o All entries must be typed and double-spaced, sent as a PDF attachment to elvington@hss.caltech.edu. Include your name, which prize and category you are submitting to in both the subject line of your email and your file label (i.e. SamStone-McClure-English.pdf).
 - o Contestants should send submissions via email no later than 8:00 a.m., April 13, 2011.
 - o Include your address and phone number in submissions.
 - o Submissions of all McClure entries should not exceed 12,000 words.
 - o Essays for the McClure may be ones prepared for a humanities class or any good piece of original writing on a topic relevant to the humanities.
 - o Entries will not be returned.
 - o Previous winners in any one category are not eligible for competition in that category.

Winners will be announced in June, and the names of the winners will appear in the commencement program. The Faculty may divide the award in each category in case of more than one outstanding submission. If you have any questions, contact Prof. Kristine Haugen, haugen@hss.caltech.edu, or Sini Elvington, elvington@hss.caltech.edu.

Revolution in Africa: Mad-Libs edition

Arab world leaders _____ (verb) to prevent protests

By Mary Nguyen

NOT A STAFF WRITER

_____ (city) - After the fall of presidents Mubarak in Egypt and Ben Ali in Tunisia, leaders of the Middle East and Northern Africa _____ (past verb) in their exclusive _____ (material) bunker to exchange new ideas to _____ (verb) protestors, short of _____ (-ing verb). By the power of _____ (food), 21-year Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei started the meeting.

"Rigged elections don't fool anyone," said Khamenei. "Staying in power is hard now. Any ideas?" Ugandan President Museveni pitched a rap album. He had performed a popular _____ (number) second rap in his country's _____ (plural place).

"My song 'You want another _____ (toy)?' has been popular with the _____ (plural noun). I think if you make them _____ (emotion), they won't revolt," stated Museveni. "They even nicknamed me _____ (James Bond character)! Now they can love no _____ (occupation) term limits."

The other leaders nodded _____ (adverb) in agreement.

"No term limit is great," noted 41-year Libyan Colonel Gadhafi. "But I can't rap. I can only _____ (verb) at the UN. Maybe I can give the _____ (plural noun) access to _____ (number) of the hand-picked _____ (plural noun) in my Amazonian Guard."

Suddenly, Mubarak and Ben Ali _____ (past verb) the conference.

"You quit. Get out!" shouted King Abdullah II of Jordan. "Keep your big _____ (body part) in Egypt!"

Gadhafi nervously _____ (past verb).

"Shut up, you _____ (animal)! You've only been _____ (adj) for 12 years and that's only true because of your _____ (adj), dead, _____ (adj) father," returned Mubarak, who ruled for nearly 30 years.

"You're a _____ (noun), Mubarak," said Algerian President Bouteflika. "Go back to your _____ (adj) Egyptian resort and take the _____ (household appliance) with you. Oh no. Don't have one of your mental _____ (plural noun)."

_____ (number) Amazonian Guards escorted the _____ (-ing verb) Hosni

Mubarak and _____ (adj) Ben Ali out of the _____ (building). The meeting quickly _____ (past verb) to its agenda.

"Any other suggestions?" inquired Bahraini King Hamad. "I'm already giving _____ (number) dinars to every _____ (noun). What do they want? _____ (plural noun)?"

"I'm telling you. Rap is the way to _____ (abstract noun)," reiterated Museveni.

After _____ (number) hours, the leaders had come up with _____ (-ing verb) protestors, _____ (-ing verb) themselves, _____ (-ing verb) their _____ (plural animal), and _____ (-ing verb) Facebook, Twitter, and Google. "What about Myspace?" asked Yemeni President Saleh.

His question was met with _____ (sound). "I can't wait until he _____ (singular present verb) in _____ (amount of time)," said Saudi King Abdullah to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Soon after, the gathering ended.

"Good luck _____ (-ing verb) self-immolations in your _____ (plural building)! Break a _____ (body part)!" said Khamenei.

The 17 _____ (adj) leaders left to _____ (verb) for Italian _____ (occupation) Silvio Berlusconi's bunga bunga extravaganza.

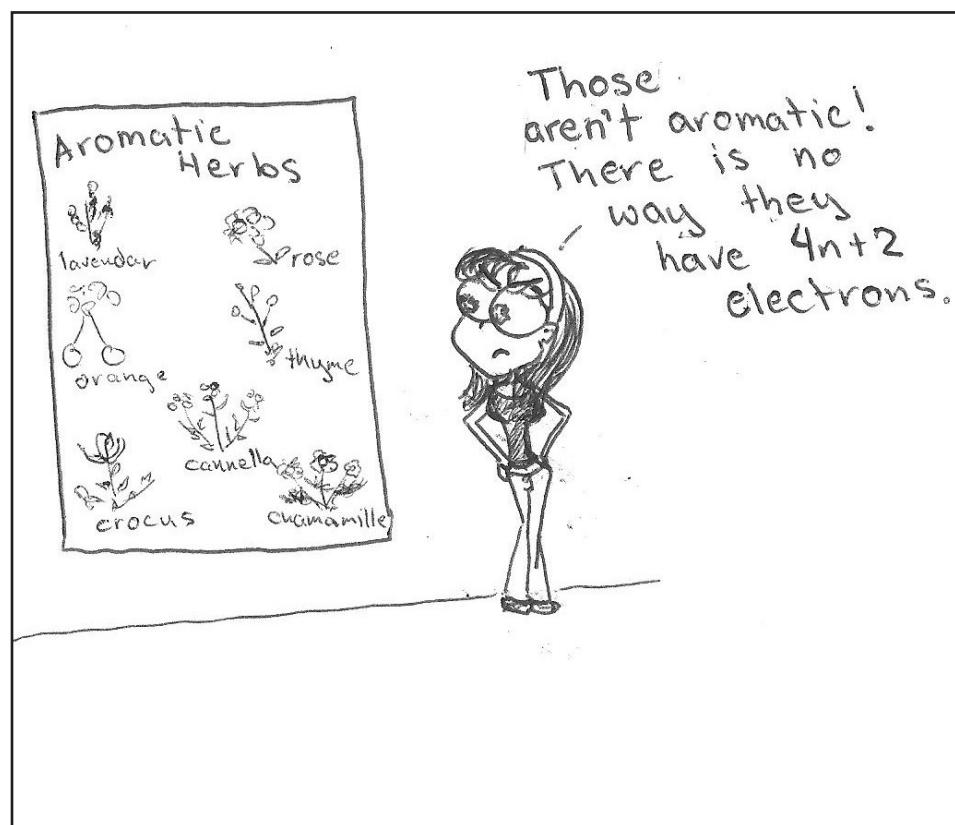
Mary Nguyen _____ (adv) reported while _____ (-ing verb) the locals and eating sandy _____ (food).

Source: AP

APPLES AND ORANGES



By Alexandra Souverneva



The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125