

THE CALIFORNIA TECH



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Kip Thorne, Physicist and Executive Producer of Spielberg Movie *Interstellar*

By Tina Ding
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kip Thorne, one of Caltech's most famous professors, has pioneered studies of gravitational waves, black holes, and other oddities of general relativity. On July 1, 2009, he became an emeritus professor.

Now, Thorne is "ramping up a new career in writing and movies," he said in an email. He is the executive producer of the sci-fi movie *Interstellar*, for which Steven Spielberg is director. The movie's expected release date is 2013.

Interstellar is based on the general relativity research that Thorne has done during much of his career. "I like to call it 'The Warped Side of the Universe,' which are

objects and phenomenon that are made largely warped space and time such as black holes, wormholes, and so on," said Thorne. He penned the original story that underlies the sci-fi movie, whose script is being written by screenwriter Jonathan Nolan and producer Lynda Obst.

"Spielberg, Obst, and Nolan are brilliant. They have different backgrounds and talents from mine and we are all very open to ideas from each other," said Thorne. "This makes the work very valuable."

The entertainment career is not a novel idea for Thorne. "I've been planning it for the past twenty years," he said. Four years ago,

See THORNE on pg. 4

Marks and Braun forced onto board

By Casey Jao
STAFF WRITER

Beginning this Fall, all residents of Marks and Braun will be required to enroll in the board plan. They will take their meals from the kitchens in the undergraduate Houses and avail themselves of Open Kitchen there.

"Most people living in Marks and Braun are affiliated with a house," said Dining and Housing director Peter Daily, "and they are welcome to eat with their houses." But he emphasized that people not wishing to eat at a house can also get their food to go and eat elsewhere.

The decision provoked a variety of student responses. Many residents voiced their displeasure in an internal email thread. One student wrote:

"I'm completely unaffiliated with a house, and...I've met a couple other people who were unaffiliated. There are also quite a few people who are formally affiliated but de facto unaffiliated. For me, it wouldn't even be hypothetically possible to eat dinner with a house, and I would most certainly feel unwelcome going to some other house's open kitchen."

"As an exchange student I've really appreciated not being forced on board," wrote Thomas Kjeldsen, an exchange student from Copenhagen. "The lack of board and the option to cook ourselves was - as I understand it - the primary reason why Copenhagen exchange students were originally placed in Marks/Braun rather

than Avery with the British." Others students reacted more moderately.

"Personally I don't really care as I eat at Avery much of the time already," said senior Christian Griset, "but I like that I'm not forced to eat there. "Further, he remarked, "Marks and Braun have no cafeteria, so [with the board plan] you actually have to go someplace else, which makes it inconvenient."

"I don't really care, but I understand why some students might care," said junior Kiefer Aguilar.

According to Daily, the reason for the new policy is simple.

People living on campus have

always been required to enroll in

the board plan. Marks and Braun

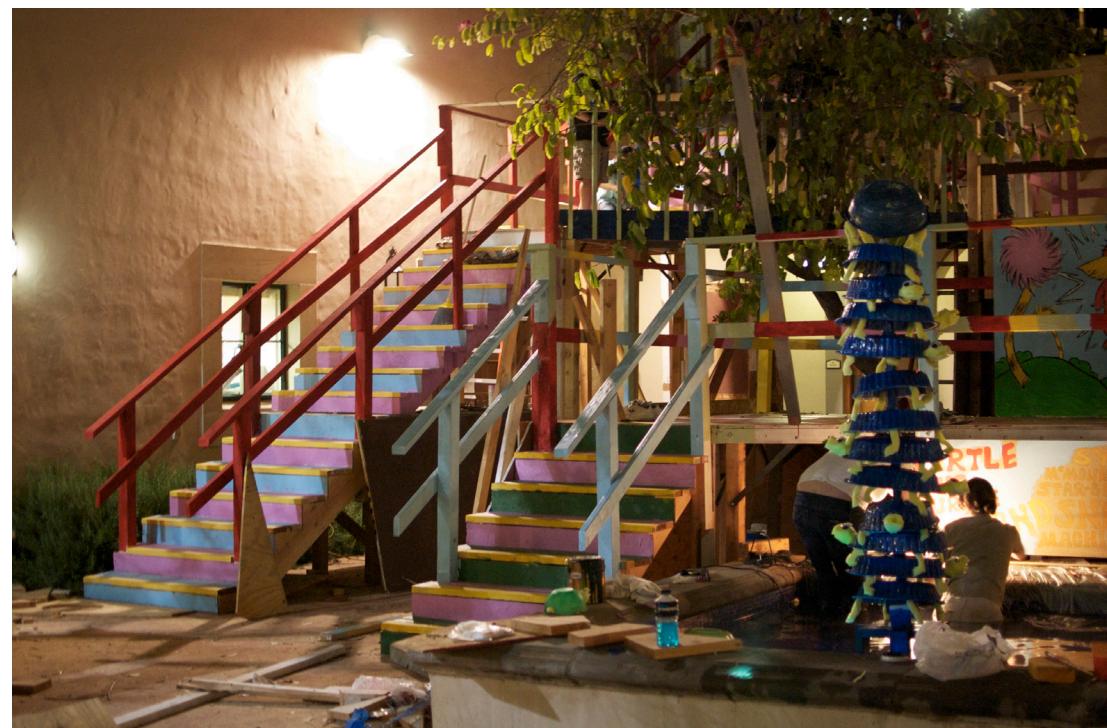
houses are considered "unaffiliated" but lie "smack-dab in the middle of campus," according to Daily. "This is a business decision [I made as the new Housing director] to make people comply with what is written," said he.

But while Daily uses the term "on campus" in the literal sense, the 2009-10 board contract gives it an operational definition, stating:

"All students living in 'On-Campus Houses' [quotes are original] must participate in the Student Board Program, as provided in the Undergraduate Student Dormitory Licensing Contract ('Contract'). For purposes of this document, 'On-Campus Houses' shall include the following locations:

See BOARD on pg. 4

Blacker hosts a Seuss-themed party



Blacker House's Interhouse, held last week in the Student Activities Center courtyard instead of Blacker House courtyard, supplemented colorful Dr. Seuss-themed staircases and dance floors with a turtle fountain (shown above), a large striped balloon, and unusual food, including green deviled eggs and ham.

Forty-six NSF Fellowships awarded to Caltech students

By Gloria Tran
STAFF WRITER

As a good proportion of seniors hear decisions on acceptance from the last few graduate schools, some also await the news from various graduate study fellowships they have applied to last fall as well.

Thirteen undergraduate students, 17 graduate students (one of which is a Caltech alum), and 17 alumni of the Caltech undergraduate program now at other institutions have received the NSF fellowship this year.

The National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships (NSF-GRF) Program is a grant to fund graduate research in certain areas of engineering, life sciences and social science. The award covers tuition for a gradu-

ate program in addition to an annual stipend of \$30,000 for three years. Up to \$1000 may be used for a travel award to a conference of one's choice. Undergraduate seniors, first-year and second-year graduate students are eligible to apply and all applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents.

About 12,000 students across the nation apply each year for an NSF-GRF. Beginning just two years ago, the number of awards increased from 1,000 to about 2,000 due to increase in government funds directed toward education and research.

The Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad (FASA) Office estimates that there are about 50 seniors who apply each year from Caltech, bringing the undergraduate success rate of about 25%.

The typical stipend awarded by graduate schools ranges from

around \$22,000 to \$25,000. Of ten times, a prospective graduate student must find a principal investigator or head of a research group to agree to help pay for tuition and salary. In addition, many graduate students generally take on teaching assistant (TA) jobs to help offset their costs of living.

"The great research experiences I have had at Caltech definitely gave me an edge in the application," comments winner senior Brandon Hensley, who will attend Princeton for a doctorate in Astrophysical Sciences.

"[The NSF-GRF] is a great opportunity as it allows for a lot more flexibility and freedom in graduate school. You are not tied to any research groups due to funding issues and you can spend

See NSF Fellowship on pg. 4

Frosh orientation camp moving back off-campus

By Deboki Chakravarti
STAFF WRITER

Caltech's Frosh Orientation Camp last year was moved on-campus as a result of budget cuts. Next year, frosh camp is moving off-campus to Ventura Beach, which is similar to the frosh camp venue from two years ago.

Last year's frosh camp was

held on-campus largely in order to save money when Student Affairs' budget was cut. However, Vice President of Student Affairs Anneila Sargent ultimately decided to move frosh camp off-campus when the new Student Affairs budget had room for a more expensive orientation, according to Dean Hall.

An off-campus orientation has two major benefits as compared

to an on-campus orientation, according to Dean Hall - higher attendance rates and fewer scheduling conflicts between Rotation and freshman orientation.

On-campus orientation sessions and recreational activities had lower attendance from faculty and students than off-campus

See FROSH CAMP on pg. 4

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NEWS

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News Briefs and Announcements

Google Games at Santa Monica

Ten students from Caltech will go head to head against students from UCLA and USC in the Google Games on Saturday, April 17. The competition will feature puzzle solving, Lego building, geek trivia, and Wii athletics. Similar competitions sponsored by Google has been held in the past for schools in same regions such as MIT vs Harvard in Boston, and UC Berkeley vs Stanford in North California.

The Caltech Project

The survey to map the social network of the Caltech undergraduate community was released to students on Tuesday, April 13th. Led by Professor Ensminger, students in An150 will be studying the outcome of the survey. High response rate(>90%) is needed for this project to succeed.

Wilson Parking Structure Closes

Construction will begin Monday and will be completed in July. Meanwhile, the roof and third floor of North and South Wilson parking structures will be closed.

Youtube Anti-Paparazzi Video Contest

Anti-Paparazzi.org is presenting a YouTube video contest for college and university students to stand up for their favorite photobombed celebs by creating their own video rendition of the celebrity and paparazzi relationship. There will be numerous cash prizes of \$1500 awarded. Entering is free. Applicant need to create a short video of no more than five minutes, upload the video to YouTube, and enter the contest on <http://antipaps.org/contest/>. Anti-Paparazzi.org is a social movement against the invasion of privacy and combative behavior of paparazzi.

Hallett Smith Competition

The English Faculty is offering the Annual Hallett Smith Competition honoring the finest essay devoted to Shakespeare. Full-time, officially registered undergraduates are eligible. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced and should not exceed 4,000 words. The essay may be one prepared for a literature class or

may be specifically written for this competition. No student can submit more than one essay. All contestants must submit two hard copies of their work to Professor Jenijoy La Belle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, no later than April 23, 2010.

This year's prize will be \$500, though the judging committee may divide the award in case of more than one outstanding submission. For more information, contact Professor La Belle, extension 3605 or Robin Bonitz extension 3610.

AT&T Big Mobile on Campus Challenge

Student(s) who designs the next "killer mobile app" will win national recognition and \$10,000 scholarship. The contest challenges students to design the winning e-learning application that will make its way into thousands of college students' mobile devices across the country. The competition opened March 1 and will end September 15, 2010. More information may be found at <http://bigmobileoncampus.wireless.att.com>.

Caltech students nab forty-six NSF awards

Continued from pg. I

less time teaching and more time on research," says Andy Yen, a senior-winner who won the award for Physics and will attend Harvard in the coming fall. "NSF looks for broader impacts in addition to academic merit. Thus, you need to be able to make a case about why your research benefits the world as a whole," explains Yen.

The application consists of a summary of one's research, a proposal for a research project and a personal statement that explains how one has made a "broader

impact" on the world. The application is then rated by three faculty on the NSF-GRF review board across the nation in one's department. Merits include both an intellectual and a personal aspect ranging from grades and research to volunteer work and the relevance of one's research.

"The NSF wants to emphasize

the importance of being a citizen-scientist," says FASA director, Lauren Stolper. The FASA office has copies of previous essays from winners that prospective applicants can look at. FASA will also host a informational session on graduate research fellowships in the fall.

Caltech Takes High Honors in Putnam Math Competition

By Wesley Yu
STAFF WRITER

The Caltech Putnam team seized third place in this year's William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition, the most prestigious collegiate mathematical competition in the United States. Caltech team members were Jason Bland (Jr., Rudd), Sam Elder (So., Avery), and Gjergji Zaimi (Jr., Page). The team will receive an award of \$15,000 for their achievement. Other teams placing in the top five were MIT, Harvard, Stanford, and Princeton.

"The key to the team's success was the consistency of its three members, who have placed highly every year they have been at Caltech," said Paul Nelson, the graduate student responsible for selecting Caltech's team. Nelson also teaches Ma 17, the class aimed at preparing students for the Putnam. "In Ma17 I have attempted to illustrate through examples the most fundamental of

these problem solving methods and to encourage interested students to practice extensively and intensely. Many students who took the course have done very well on the Putnam."

A Putnam team consists of three students chosen to represent a college before the exam in December. Team members take the Putnam exam individually and the team's score is the sum of the ranks of the team members on the individual exam. Teams are ranked from lowest score to highest. For example, a team consisting of members ranked 7, 10, and 32 on the individual exam would have a score of 49 and would be ranked lower than a team with members ranked 11, 12, and 21. This system puts most weight on a team's lowest score, but rewards consistent teams.

Caltech students also took top prizes in individual rankings. Yakov Berchenko-Kogan (Jr., Darb), and Bland both placed in Group N1, the top 15 students nationwide. Elder and Eric Stansifer

(Sr., Avery) placed in Group N2, the top 25 students nationwide. Seven Caltech students received honorable mentions.

"Given the amazing student body here, many students who have problem solving experience, and our excellent Putnam class (Ma17) such a result is no big surprise," said Zaimi.

Bland, though felt lucky and surprised at his result, even though he has consistently placed in the top 25 for the last three years. "Every year, I feel like I get lucky because the Putnam happens to have the right questions on it."

Team members are fueled with ambition for next year's competition. "Next year is even more exciting. Brian, Jason and Yasha will be seniors and I'll be a junior. If none of next year's team members mess up, and with a bit of luck, we definitely have a chance at beating MIT and Harvard," predicted Elder.

Upcoming Deadlines

Friday April 16

Moore-Hufstedler Fund(MHF)

MHF Fund accepts proposals and grants funding for enhanced student life at Caltech. Email to mhf@caltech.edu by 5pm.

George W. Housner Fund

Students may submit proposals for funding for individual or group academic experiences. The Housner Fund offers awards every term, with the deadline being on Add Day of each term.

ASCIT Club Funding

Pre-existing and new clubs need to apply.

Caltech Undergraduates Win Prestigious Scholarships

Leon Liu: Gates Cambridge Fellowship

By Yang Hu

STAFF WRITER

Caltech senior Leon Liu was recently named the 2010 Gates Cambridge Scholar, an honor that enables outstanding graduate students from outside the United Kingdom to study at the University of Cambridge.

Liu sees the Gates scholarship as almost a perfect fit for his personal interests. "I also wanted to meet others from around the world who share similar interests," he said.

Liu, an Applied Physics major, researched solar energy conversion under Professor Nathan S. Lewis. He focused on strategies to decrease the cost of solar cells by adopting novel materials and structures without sacrificing performance. At Cambridge, he plans to study the physics of low-cost, plastic solar cells.

Liu is the President of the Caltech Y. While here, he organized a Hurricane Katrina relief trip to New Orleans and planned

service programs with homeless shelters. He collaborated with an international team of students to design inexpensive wood-burning stove improvements that reduced harmful indoor emissions and increased fuel efficiency.

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship is funded by a \$210 million donation by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and is annually awarded to students on the basis of their intellectual ability, leadership capacity and desire to use their knowledge to contribute to society throughout the world.

The long application process involved first applying to the specific department at the University of Cambridge, a supplement for those who meet the academic criteria, and an interview for favored applicants.

"There are many great opportunities at Caltech for students to discover and pursue outside of academics that are worth the time and effort," said Liu. "So don't miss them!"



Shown above is Leon Liu painting at a service event.

Wesley Yu: Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship

By Sarah Marzen

STAFF WRITER

Caltech junior Wesley Yu, a chemistry major, won one of 278 Barry Goldwater scholarships this year. Caltech junior Elliot Schneider, a physics major, was awarded one of roughly 150 Honorable Mentions.

The Barry Goldwater scholarship grants a maximum of \$7,500 per year to roughly 300 sophomores and juniors from around the United States. Awards are based on academic merit in math, science, and engineering-- according to the official Goldwater press release, "virtually all" of its scholars wish to pursue a Ph.D.

Even applying for the Goldwater scholarship is prestigious. Only four Caltech students are nominated to apply for the Goldwater scholarship based on GPA, research and recommendation letters.

"I was honored even to be considered as one of the four candi-

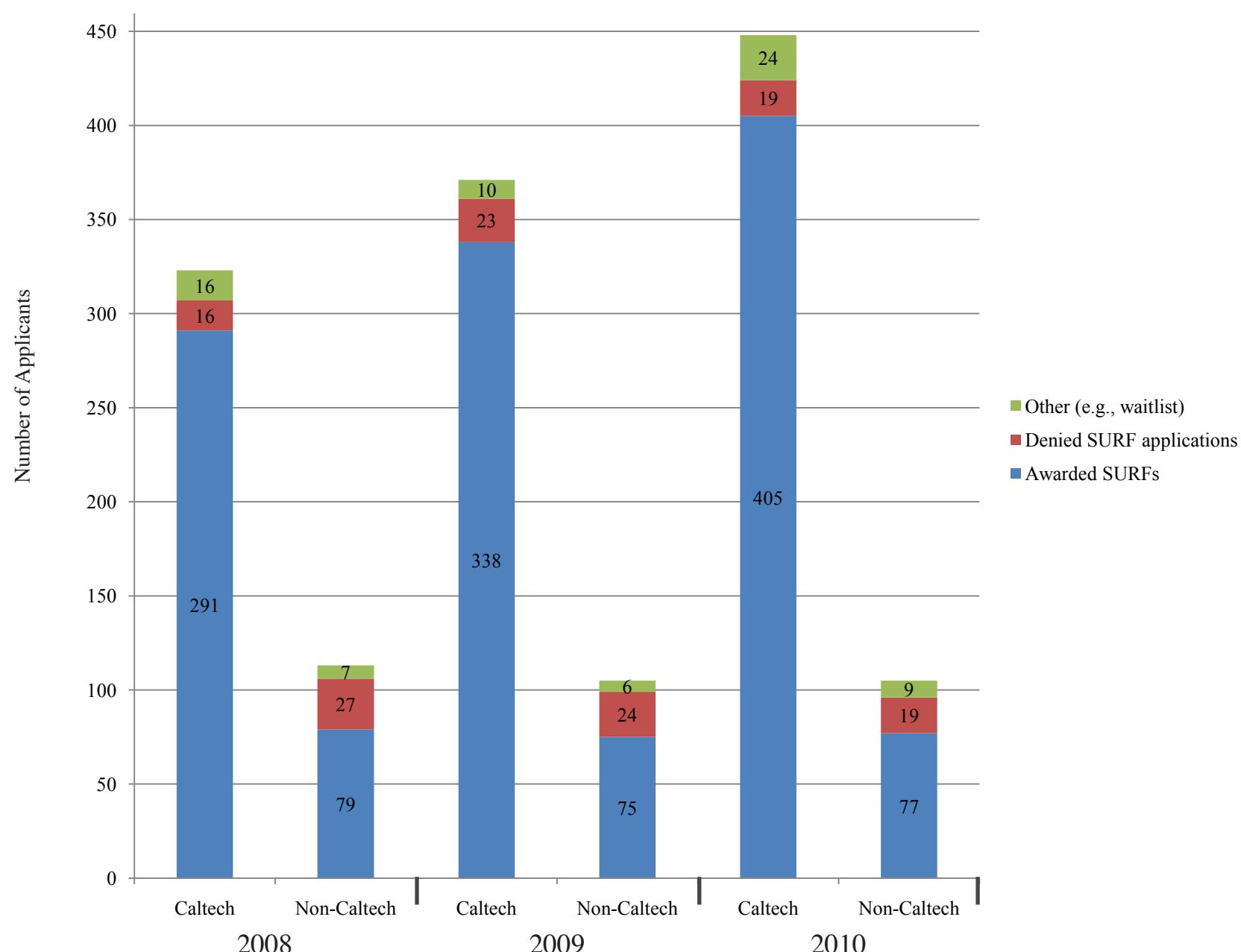


Shown above is Wesley Yu during his term at Study Abroad.

dates to be selected," said Schneider, who works with Caltech physics Professor Harvey Newman on one of the two main detectors in the Large Hadron Collider.

Yu declined to comment on his award, stressing that he was also honored to have been considered for the award at all.

Economy's down, but SURFs up



Despite the still struggling economy, the number of Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships awarded to Caltech undergraduates increased this year from 338 in 2009 to 362 in 2010 as of April 9, according to Student-Faculty Programs Assistant Director Carol Casey. The number of named SURFs-- SURFs for which a donor pays for part of the cost-- also increased this year, although Casey did not know how many more named SURFs were available at the time of press release.

The data above was provided by Assistant Director Casey on Friday, April 9. The number of waitlisted students for 2010 may have decreased since then.

Physicist and Producer

Kip Thorne, cont...

he made the announcement about his entertainment career plans to his colleagues and the Caltech administration, and made some steps closer to executing the career.

"My coworkers seem very supportive of my choice of new directions," said Thorne. Chen commented that Thorne has the "right connections and skills to explain difficult concepts to ordinary people with no physics backgrounds."

"We need to have the public excited by science, and ... Kip has an ability to persuade and influence people, using simple ways to explain difficult things," said Chen.

The story is still in its draft stages, but some elements such as the physics that drive the science fictional plot are definitely going to be present and "will be portrayed correctly," said Yanbei Chen, Assistant Professor of Physics and colleague of Thorne.

According to Chen, who gained his knowledge of the movie through conversations with Thorne, the storyline centers on the discovery of an energy source from the Hawking radiation from a nearby black-hole. Extra-dimensional beings that control the blackhole may also exist in the plot.

Several plot points are allusions to general relativity and parts of Thorne's research, including the gravitational red shift that occurs when the character is close to the vicinity of the black hole.

Although the movie still lacks an official website, a myriad of non-mainstream websites with titles such as "Interstellar UFO movie" and "Spielberg Talks About Worm-hole Movie Interstellar" have been buzz-

ing about the upcoming film. However, the websites include more rumors than they do actual information. According to Internet Movie Database(IMDb), Interstellar is a scientific fiction movie that "explores Kip Thorne's theories of gravity fields, wormholes, and several hypotheses that Albert Einstein was never able to prove." The synopsis does not discuss the characters or plot of the story.

Thorne commented that the movie information on these websites is about 70% correct.

Continuing science

By being Professor Emeritus, Thorne retired from teaching classes, mentoring graduate student, and serving on committees. But Thorne has not left Caltech for good. The physicist emphasized many times in the email that he has definitely not left Caltech, and that he still has an office in Cahill. Chen notes that Thorne comes to Caltech and visits his research about once a week.

He is also still the Principle Investigator (PI) on three research grants, although he will step down from being PI once they end. The research group that Thorne led was dispersed into labs of Steryl Phinney, Yanbei Chen, and Christian Ott. The LIGO project, which aims to detect gravitational waves, whose progress and success has been attributed to Thorne's efforts, is now under the leadership of Jay Marx and others.

Thorne is the national bestseller author of Black Holes and Time Warp and the unofficial publication textbook Applications of Classical Physics, which has been used for many years in Ph136. He is also Steven Hawking's longtime friend, and the receptor of Hawking's yearly visit to Caltech.

Frosh Camp in Ventura

Continued from pg. 1

orientation sessions. Pre-season student athletes were more likely to skip activities due to conflicts with pre-season games.

The hope is that by moving Frosh Camp back off-campus, students, faculty, and staff will attend the sessions in greater numbers than they did this past year, said Hall.

In terms of scheduling, incoming freshmen participate in Caltech's orientation, Rotation, and classes when they first arrive. Last year's Rotation Committee recommended that Rotation be moved a week earlier in order to minimize interference with classes, and on-campus orientation last year was held during Rotation in order to limit the amount of idle time the incoming freshmen spend on campus.

However, last year's simultaneous Rota-

tion and off-campus orientation led to complaints that there were too many activities in too short of a time span so that students did not have a lot of free time.

An off-campus orientation avoids conflicts with an earlier Rotation, which cannot begin until students are on campus.

Caltech's class of 2012 will arrive on campus and check-in on September 19th. Convocation will also take place the same day. They will leave for Ventura Beach the next day, participating in the typical orientation activities for three days until they leave on the 22nd.

Now that the arrangements for the venue have been made, the activities and sessions held during Frosh Camp will be planned out. There are usually a few changes to program, like last year's new session on harassment. This planning will start to take place at the beginning of summer in preparation for the incoming freshman class.

Board Program Expanding

Continued from pg. 1

tion: Blacker, Dabney, Fleming, Lloyd, Page, Ricketts, Ruddock, and Avery."

The 2009-10 undergraduate housing contract states:

"All Residents living in one of the seven on-campus undergraduate houses or Avery will be automatically enrolled in and charged for a board plan."

For the 2010-11 year, this contract has been revised to read:

"All Residents living in one of the eight

on-campus undergraduate houses, Braun, or Marks will be automatically enrolled in and charged for a board plan."

Throughout the document, "On Campus House" is distinguished from "Marks House" and "Braun House".

While Daily considers Marks and Braun as on-campus, he regards the 1170 Del Mar apartments "at the fringe." Residents there will not be required next year to enroll in board. However, Daily would not say whether this would change in the future. "My crystal ball is a bit foggy...I'm not ruling anything out right now," said Daily.

Caltech Dance Show



The Caltech Dance Show, performed last Friday and Saturday to full theatre, featuring ballroom dance, ballet, hip-hop, and many other genres.

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Chill Out!

By Sarah Marzen

STAFF WRITER

Students are talking a lot about Eco-Rotation. That's great-- it's wonderful that Caltech's trademark apathy has been temporarily replaced with extreme concern for the consequences of Eco-Rotation.

I'm surprised that larger concerns mentioned in Daniel Haas's opinion article this week have, in some places, given way to heated discussions of details that are still being discussed. Maybe this is partly the fault of last week's Tech article, which didn't clearly state that the details were undecided and subject to change. Even so, some of the most commonly discussed topics in some Houses seem a little off-point. For example, should we discuss how exactly roommates might get split up when a House loses an alley, or should we discuss where this proposal is coming from?

Please don't forget that our administration is subject to the whims of trustees. Supporters of Rotation are lucky that the Eco-Rotation committee was carefully picked by its chair so that every single member was either a Caltech student or a Caltech alum. A less carefully chosen ad hoc Rotation Committee would probably have recommended something much closer to random assignment.

Eco-Rotation, a Good Attempt at Changing a Broken System

By Pradeep Ramesh

STAFF WRITER

Despite some of its apparent shortcomings, the proposed Eco-rotation remains the only credible solution to fixing what has long been a broken system. Time and time again, I have been forced to sit and watch as others have flaunted rotation rules, some with the intention of gaming the system to elicit an unfair advantage in the picks process; consequently, I was delighted when the new system was proposed since it holds houses accountable for their actions with concrete penalties.

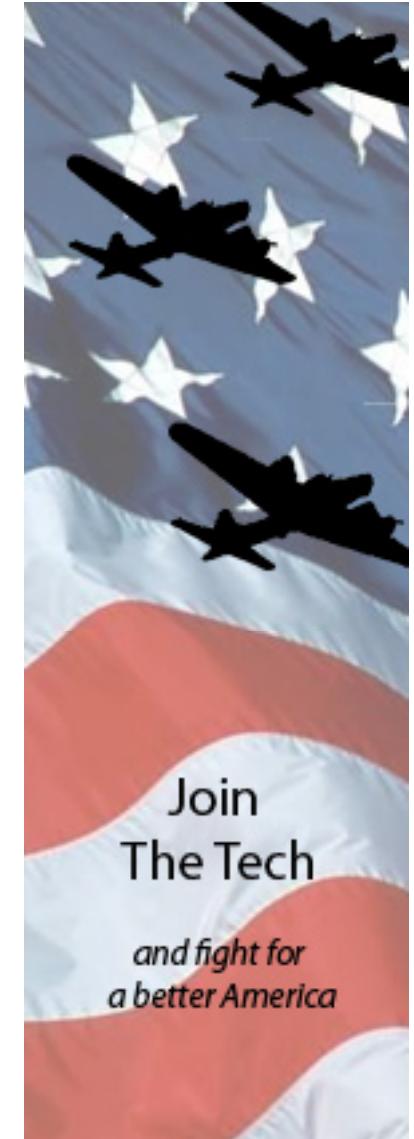
Many are understandably outraged at one provision in particular which allows for a house to be stripped of its alleys and off-campus housing if it was found to have committed a policy violation. For one, the key aim of the new system is to prevent houses from negatively misrepresenting themselves to an extent that most freshman are unwilling to live in the offending house. Secondly, the new system awards the IHC considerable power and flexibility in determining the fate of a house and is not, as some would portray, an iron-clad policy with little wiggle room.

While the new system is silent on the issue of houses positively misrepresenting themselves, houses cannot and will not

grow merely due to increased freshman interest since any such growth must not only be approved by the IHC, but also requires the consent of all other houses to accept fewer freshman. Under the new system, a house is not required to attract every freshman; instead, the house must not scare away freshman to the point that few demonstrate an interest in the house.

In the context of last year's rotation fiasco, when many students were seething with anger over repeated violations, there was a clear need for a change in the status quo. To be sure, not every freshman gets into the house of his or her choice on any given year, but last year was exceptionally bad. If we are to preserve whatever remains of the undergraduate student culture, we need to respect the rules of fair play; I would rather not see the day when faculty decide freshman house assignments.

As such, I believe that most fears of the new system largely stem from a misunderstanding of its provisions. Eco-rotation does not infringe on house culture as many claim that it does; instead it attempts to deter houses from engaging in negative behavior that is a violation of campus policy. Regardless, the likelihood of a house actually losing one or more of its alleys is highly unlikely since I believe that the stipulation alone is a sufficient deterrent against future violations.



Letters to the Editor

Against Eco-Rotation

The proposed "Eco-Rotation" [See last week's Tech article by Daniel Thai for a full description] is not only a harbinger of the end of Rotation and the Housing system as we know it at Caltech, but just one more example in a long line of how the current administration looks first to its own interests before student welfare. My name is Daniel Haas, and I am a Junior who 3 years ago rotated into Dabney. I have been on a picks team so I know both what I am talking about and what things I am not allowed to write in this article (don't worry, Mr. Black). I write this open letter to VP of Academic Affairs Anneila Sargent in the hopes that she will consider more than the recommendations of an 8 person committee when making her decision regarding this plan, and I write it also to every student who likes the House they live in to convince them that if Eco-Rotation is implemented as-is it will cause the end of that House.

The housing system is my favorite part about Caltech. I think it groups students based on common personalities rather than artificial lines of age or gender. It creates cultures that persist long in time, encouraging traditions like hugely creative parties and pranks. It also gives everyone a huge support net of people who know and care about them, and puts upperclassmen in close proximity to freshman, who they can help with sets and other problems at such a difficult institution. You can get fine science many places, but such a system is rare.

And rotation is the lynch-pin in this system. Each student is allowed to get to know each House, and each House gets to know each student in a week that is grueling to both. Houses select students in a system which is designed to optimize based on the rankings of both incoming freshmen and of the Houses. I won't say that it's a

perfect system, but I will say that like the American Constitution, it is the system that "sucks the least".

Eco-rotation is the newly proposed system under which if any House is poorly ranked, they begin to lose alleys. If this happens for too long, the House is eventually disbanded. Not only that, but more popular Houses are forced to take more freshmen and kick their own upperclassmen off campus, and eventually are forced to take rooms in the shrinking Houses.

I'm not going to talk about how the proposed plan has no specific numbers for any of this, compared to the current system of Rotation which is as exact as X-Ray crystallography. Nor am I here to discuss how some Houses may be unpopular during Rotation but have a high number of students who join later after the smoke clears, and how students who after giving their rotation House a fair chance were still unhappy were able to join another House and integrate into its culture just as well as everyone else. I'm not going to say that administration tried meddling with the Rotation system in the past in the interest of students who would rather "opt out" of the housing system by creating Avery, but then Avery decided on its own to petition to become a House. I'm not here to remind you that this new system encourages Houses to look at Rotation not as an optimization process but as a market in which we must fight to collect the most frosh before the bell rings, turning the frosh into numbers and increasing the amount of violations to the rules and spirit of rotation. No House is going to sit there and try to give incoming frosh an honest impression when others are throwing dance parties every night, especially with a Sword of Damocles hanging above their head.

No, I'm here to say to each student that if you love your own House, you should stand up and say no to this plan. "But my House is popular", you might be thinking "why should I care if Booty House

gets disbanded? I never really liked those chain-smoking necrophiliacs anyways (Note to any prefresh: ask an upperclassman what I'm talking about)". I know what you mean, I have certain Houses that don't fit me, and I have others that I think may be a bad environment for others. But I'm reminded of the poem about the Holocaust, in which the man says nothing because each time "They came for the Jews/Catholics/Homosexuals", and by the time they come for him there was no one left to say anything. Sometimes, like with free speech, you must find yourself defending the indefensible. You can't pick and choose, it's all or nothing. If one House is disbanded, this sets a precedent for the administration to disband another. People will start to think twice about protesting, and will start to "fall in line" with any policies, out of fear of getting the hammer. Should we pull this prank? Should we throw this social event? As soon as one House goes, they all go.

And not only that, but the most popular Houses will soon become stretched across many members. The culture will start to erode bit by bit with more and more members, especially if some are living in other Houses to which they do not belong (as would happen under Eco-Rotation). Eventually we would see a system in which the less popular Houses disappear, and the popular ones grow larger and less distinct, until we end up with a system which may have Houses in name, but never in spirit. And remember, students have a four-year memory, after which no-one will know any different. If the IHC on its own decides to fix this, then that's their prerogative, but we as students should not allow administration to peel away a little bit more of our liberty.

So why did we need such a plan? The stated reason was that "there were too many infractions during Rotation, and that people complain to their advisor that they got into the wrong House". On the first issue, how is changing rotation going to

affect that? Why are we punishing every House for the mistakes of one or two? On the second, advisors only see their freshman once and that's in the month immediately following rotation, then never again. I can think of at least 3 people off the top of my head who were crushed after rotation, but then grew to realize that they fit much better with this House. People start to see that some Houses are different than during rotation, and that sometimes the upperclassmen (who have a better knowledge of each House culture) have a pretty good idea about who will fit in where. Under the current system, the great thing is that it's not each House trying to grab the "best" frosh, but instead knowing that frosh fit in certain places.

But maybe that's just anecdotal evidence. If only we had some sort of survey to gauge how students feel. But oh wait, we do. Though the committee has seen fit not to publish it, I have been told by more than one IHC member that over 90% of students are not unhappy about how they Rotated, and that specifically in the more unpopular Houses not a single person said they were unhappy. Maybe this information is inaccurate, but it would be nice if we could see that. Maybe then we'd see that Rotation doesn't need to be fixed, as we keep being told. Can you think of the last time that over 90% of Caltech students, or 90% of anyone, agreed on...anything? I say that's pretty damn good.

What with the recent Mural Policy debates, the usurpation of the "student-run" CoffeeHouse, and the banning of Rotation skits last year, it would be understandable to assume that the administration has things other than student welfare and independence foremost in their minds. But this is a chance for them to show us that this is not the case, and to listen to the survey of students who like the Houses as they are.

Daniel Haas

From the Editors

Prefrosh Weekend, Not All of Caltech

Looking back at my Prefrosh Weekend three years ago, it was quite the adventure. Much unexpected occurrences took place, one being getting a large bruise from being kneed and run over by another prefrosh during Capture the Flag. I remember the schedule book being filled with activities,

some with mysterious titles that would turn out to be contrary to my imagination. But most importantly, I remember meeting people, hearing stories, and learning as much as I can about this foreign place (but sadly at the end of the weekend, I was only able to name three Houses). For me, evidently, there were enough of those I met for whom

I felt a connection with; it made me feel content with my choice to attend this institution. But looking back, none except for one of the people I had great "connection" with ended up becoming my closest friends. Although it seemed like I met more people than I have ever in three days, the ones that surround me and my Caltech experience

now, I discovered them later on. As for research, academics, and opportunities of the sort, classes on Fridays honestly do not give a close depiction. Keep in mind all these things when you're wandering around the campus. Take advantage of this period of time. Meet students. Meet upperclassmen. You can think of

Caltech at Prefrosh weekend as a blurry low resolution picture. You can make out the image, but you're still far from a perfect focused portrayal.

-Tina Ding

From the President's Desk

Welcome Prefrosh!

By Adam Khan

ASCIT PRESIDENT

Congratulations to all the newly admitted Prefrosh and welcome to Caltech! Prefrosh weekend is a time-honored tradition at Caltech and I hope that you all will enjoy this weekend as much as I will.

As a senior in high school, I remember this being a very exciting, yet somewhat stressful time in my life. I thought that the college that I chose to attend would determine the rest of my life and career. And to some degree it will. But looking back on it all, I've realized that ultimately it is how you utilize the resources around you, at whatever College you go to, that will benefit you for the rest of your life. So don't stress out about this decision. Whatever college you end up at, I'm sure you will succeed. You

did get through Caltech's rigorous admissions process after all. For now, just try to have some fun this weekend and enjoy some of Caltech's hospitality.

I'm sure that you've already heard about all the amazing resources that Caltech has to offer academically. And if you haven't, I am sure you will quickly find someone on campus that will be willing to fill you in. As you will learn, practically everyone on campus, whether it be students, administrators, faculty, or even alumni, are passionate about what they do on campus as well as the high quality of education that students receive as undergraduates.

I'd rather like to tell you a little bit about student life on campus and draw from some personal experiences. One of the core strengths that I believe

is the glue that holds together the student body is the Honor Code and Collaboration Policy. While students are competitive in the sense that they work hard to succeed in classes, I've never had or heard of an instance where two or more students were competing against each other to obtain a higher grade. The Collaboration Policy as well as taking your first two terms on pass-fail has a lot to do with fostering this environment. I can safely say that I've learned as much from the friends that I do problems sets with on a daily basis, as I have from Professors in lecture. Which is a testament no only to the high caliber of student that attends the institute, but also their ability to communicate and teach.

While the workload is high at Caltech, we don't just do

problems sets 24/7. We also like to have a good time, and I'm sure you will get a better sense for that this weekend. Just to give you an idea of some major events that happened on campus last year: we had a joint party with Harvey-Mudd College, we rented out the Paseo Movie Theater for ASCIT Movie Night to watch Star Trek together as a student body, and in the fall we had Third Eye Blind come and give a concert outside the Winnett Student Center. So there isn't a lack of things to do on weekends, but if you do get particularly bored, remember that LA is just around the corner.

This weekend is your chance to explore everything that Caltech has to offer: from academics to athletics, from undergraduate research to student life. As undergrads, we aren't

going to try to sell you the school if you're not interested or if it isn't a good fit. So get to know your Prefrosh hosts and other undergraduate students, they will give you lots of insight into whether this is the place for you.

The future holds a lot uncertainty, but also a lot of excitement. It was attending Prefrosh Weekend that essentially made me decide to attend Caltech. And I had no idea two years ago, coming into Prefrosh Weekend, that my host would now become one of my best friends and that I would have spent this past summer doing research in Iceland as well as travelling through Europe with him. So get excited, enjoy the weekend, make some new friends, and hopefully I'll see you in the fall.



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HOSPITAL ROOM
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Fifteen Questions with Professor Jenijoy LaBelle

Interviewed by Sandhya Chandrasekaran



Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

Introduce a Girl to Engineering is the Society of Women Engineers' annual outreach event, where middle school students come to Caltech to compete in groups in building the best designated device.

This year, the students participated in building the best 1 ft tall by 1 ft long towers. They measured the performance by putting the tower between two tables close together, hanging a bag from a broad stick from the middle. The day also consisted of lab tours and science/engineering demonstrations.



1. What initially brought you to Caltech?

In the fall of 1969, Caltech had an opening for an assistant professor of literature. At the time, I knew very little about the Institute except that one of the world's great Elizabethan scholars, Hallatt Smith, was Chairman of the Humanities Department and that Caltech was close to the Huntington Library. These were two compelling reasons for my wanting to be here.

2. What classes have you taught?

At one time or another, I have taught everything from the Finnesburgh Fight to (and beyond) the Ginsburg Howl. (Many English classes in the 70s continued for three quarters). Over the decades, I've taught courses in Greek Drama, Chaucer, Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century English Literature, William Blake, Shakespeare, Modern Poetry, etc. And many freshman Humanities courses.

3. What does your research primarily entail?

My research and publications have been concentrated in four areas: the poetry of Theodore Roethke, Blake's pictorial works, issues of ideality and physicality in Shakespeare's plays, and issues of identity and physical appearance in texts about women.

4. How does it feel to teach humanities to students primarily interested in math and the sciences?

I do know that most of our students are primarily interested in math and the sciences. But I have always believed that literature can be a kind of liberation for Teachers. It can offer a whole other way of looking at the universe. Not the material universe, but the human universe -- the inner world of the mind. When they perceive it as an alternative way of thinking about their lives, it interests them.

5. How does it feel to be the first female professor to be granted tenure at Caltech?

When I first accepted the position at Caltech in 69, I did not know that there were no other women on the professorial level. I did not know that there were no female undergraduates. I was the first woman to be hired on the professorial level, but I was not the first female faculty member to be granted tenure. That honor goes to the eminent mathematician Olga Taussky-Todd. And she certainly should also have been the first woman professor, but she wasn't. She came to Caltech in 1957 with her husband John Todd. He was appointed professor of mathematics and she had a position as a research associate in math and remained so until 1971. In 1979, when I became an associate professor, I was the only tenured woman on the active faculty because Olga Todd had already retired.

6. Would you mind giving us a quick summary of the turn of events in your tenure/sex discrimination case?

It would take up way too much space to give even a quick summary of my tenure/discrimination case. It's like trying to untangle an acre of worms in just a few minutes. Let me just say that at some point my only recourse was to file a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In 1977, it found in my favor and charged Caltech with discrimination against women in faculty employment. For a long time now I believe that Caltech has been committed to quality-based affirmative action and that it had taken positive steps to retain the women and minorities that it recruits. I've served on and even chaired the Administrative Affirmative Action Committee and can now see these vexed issues from both sides.

7. How aware were you of gender discrimination at universities before you yourself were at the receiving end?

I really was not particularly aware of gender discrimination before becoming a professor. Although I do remember noting that I had only one woman professor as an undergraduate and none as a graduate student. And that when I arrived for my interview for a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for graduate school, having been nominated by my undergraduate university, I was the only female in the room.

8. If you could be any character in one of Shakespeare's plays, who would you choose and why?

Well, certainly not Desdemona. This is a great question, but I need much more time to think about it than I have this afternoon.

9. Do you have a favorite play or work of literature?

Whatever work I'm currently reading. Right this minute it's Trollope's The Small House at Allington. I'm even thinking of starting a Trollope Society at Caltech. (And please don't leave the "e" off. I have my reputation to guard.)

10. Have you been to any particularly memorable reenactments of Shakespeare's work?

I remember a production in London in which Hamlet roared onto the stage on a Harley-Davidson.

11. What are your thoughts about the Reduced Shakespeare Company?

Company, which, as you probably know, is a troupe that condenses many of Shakespeare's work into a brief amount of time (about 90 minutes)?

I don't think much of the Reduced Shakespeare Company. Why would I want Shakespeare diminished and shrunk? For me, there are no nonessentials in Shakespeare.

12. Are there any stories about Professor Feynman that you could enlighten us on? Have his interests, or science in general, rubbed off on you since you began teaching here?

This is one of my favorite Feynman stories. Stop me if you've heard it before. Richard knew that I often did literary research at the Huntington Library, and he decided that he too would like to become a "reader." We went to the library early one morning, and he was granted a reader's card. I left him sitting happily in the Rare Book Room and studying an early edition of Newton. During lunch he told me of his adventures. He had found in the text a particular problem in differential calculus, and he also saw that Newton had solved the problem in a rather clumsy way. Richard was pleased to realize that he could figure out in his head a better way of solving the problem. He turned the page and found that Newton offered a more elegant method of solving it -- indeed, the very explanation that Richard had foreseen. But then, he said, he read the next paragraph, which began, "The best way to solve the problem, however...." and Newton went on with an explanation not yet thought of by Richard. It is the delight and the sweet, not quite humbled, pride he took in telling this story that stay in my memory. To the world Feynman appeared as the great theoretical physicist; to himself, he was often, to use Newton's image, only another boy playing on the seashore. Sometimes it was he who found the smoother pebble. Sometimes it was his friend Isaac.

13. What publications have you written for?

Princeton University Press, Cornell University Press, Dover Press, Indiana University Press, Shakespeare Quarterly, Concerning Poetry, The Explicator, Forum, Northwest Review, Blake: An Illustrated Quarterly, The Anglo-Welsh Review, The Journal of English and Germanic Philology, The London Book Collector, Blake Studies, Studies in Modern Responses to Gerard Manley Hopkins, Pacific Coast Philology, English Language Notes, The Huntington Library Quarterly, The Encyclopedia of Romanticism, AWP Chronicle, Kenyon Review, The Virginia Quarterly Review, a series of monthly editorials in the Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed page, etc.

14. What do you think you would be doing, career-wise, if you weren't teaching?

I can't imagine.

15. What are some of your hobbies?

My vocation is my avocation.

PREFROSH

APRIL 14, 2010

To Prefrosh From IHC

On behalf of the Interhouse Committee (IHC), I would like to welcome you all to Caltech. You all have a busy and exciting weekend ahead of you. You'll get to sit in on lectures taught by Nobel Prize winners, explore a beautiful campus, hear stories about pranks and Ditch Day, and meet a bunch of students who are similarly excited about science and

engineering.

On top of all that, there's something else that makes Caltech stand out: our House system. Everyone joins a House at the beginning of their freshman year, and stays a member of that House for all four years (although there are ways to change Houses). The Houses all have their own customs and traditions. They hold fun social events and build awesome parties. They are a close community of friends, and a support

network. You'll learn more as you spend time in the Houses this weekend.

Every weeknight, each House has a sit-down family-style dinner. You'll get to go to one of these dinners Thursday night. You've been assigned to a House to eat in; find your name in the table to see where you're eating. Next, check what time that dinner starts in the other table; different Houses start their dinner at different times.

Friday night, you'll have din-

ner from the In-N-Out truck instead of going to a House dinner. But since each House does dinner differently, we'd like to give you a chance to see another House's dinner traditions. So, at 6:30, after you have eaten your In-N-Out, you will go to the House that you've been staying in to see their dinner traditions while eating dessert.

You have a great opportunity this weekend to see a lot of things that make Caltech great – I hope you enjoy it!

Thursday	Dinner Times
Avery	6:15
Blacker	6:05
Dabney	6:15
Fleming	6:30
Lloyd	6:15
Page	6:45
Ricketts	5:45
Ruddock	6:30

First	Last	Thu Dinner	Fri Dessert	First	Last	Thu Dinner	Fri Dessert
Aaron	Nagao	Fleming	Avery	Chih-Ping	Chen	Dabney	Page
Abel	Misrak	Dabney	Fleming	Christiana	Wong	Ricketts	Fleming
Adrian	Orozco	Blacker	Ricketts	Christina	Su	Dabney	Lloyd
Akhil	Raju	Ricketts	Fleming	Christine	Cheng	Lloyd	Avery
Alan	Chang	Lloyd	Avery	Christine	Sun	Dabney	Blacker
Alexander	Sareyan	Lloyd	Ricketts	Christopher	Varnerin	Lloyd	Page
Alexander	Wilson	Page	Dabney	Connor	DeFanti	Blacker	Lloyd
Alexandra	Boehrer	Lloyd	Dabney	Conway	Xu	Blacker	Fleming
Allison	Christian	Lloyd	Blacker	Curie	Ahn	Dabney	Ruddock
Amishi	Bajaj	Page	Blacker	Cutter	Coryell	Page	Blacker
Anand	Oza	Ricketts	Fleming	Daniel	Li	Page	Fleming
Andrea	Ritch	Ruddock	Fleming	Daniel	Marks	Lloyd	Page
Andrew	Barlett	Page	Avery	Daniel	Zhang	Lloyd	Blacker
Andrei	Nagornyi	Ricketts	Lloyd	David	Ding	Blacker	Ruddock
Andrew	Zhai	Dabney	Avery	David	Nguyen	Lloyd	Ricketts
Angela	Gong	Ruddock	Blacker	David	Sell	Page	Blacker
Anne	Huang	Page	Ruddock	David	Vartanyan	Lloyd	Ricketts
Annie	Lee	Dabney	Ricketts	Dennis	Prieto	Ruddock	Ricketts
Anthony	Alvarez-Gerritsen	Avery	Lloyd	Devashish	Joshi	Fleming	Ruddock
Arjun	Chandrasekhar	Fleming	Page	Devin	Zhang	Lloyd	Fleming
Ashley	Lo	Dabney	Ricketts	Elliot	Avila	Blacker	Page
Atharv	Vaish	Ricketts	Dabney	Eric	Van Albert	Fleming	Blacker
Audrey	Liu	Fleming	Avery	Eric	Wang	Avery	Page
Benjamin	Fisher	Page	Fleming	Erica	Leung	Dabney	Avery
Benjamin	Lieber	Avery	Dabney	Erika	DeBenedicti	Lloyd	Page
Benjamin	Niswonger	Ruddock	Ricketts	Eugene	Vinitsky	Avery	Ruddock
Benjamin	Nuzzo	Page	Ruddock	Fernando	Rosas	Dabney	Ricketts
Benjamin	Schwartz	Dabney	Page	Gautam	Upadhyia	Page	Lloyd
Benjamin	Waxer	Ruddock	Page	Genesis	Lung	Lloyd	Page
Bhargav	Setlur	Avery	Ricketts	Grant	Maxson	Avery	Blacker
Brenda	Lee	Ricketts	Fleming	Guoning	Xiao	Page	Ruddock
Brendan	Wu	Dabney	Lloyd	Han Beol	Jang	Ricketts	Ruddock
Brent	Terry-Penak	Blacker	Avery	Hannah	Rajeshwar	Ruddock	Page
Brian	Okoro	Lloyd	Page	Henry	Geria	Avery	Blacker
Brian	Smiley	Ricketts	Ruddock	Ileane	O'Leary	Avery	Ruddock
Brooklyn	Schlamp	Ruddock	Ricketts	Iris	Liu	Ricketts	Avery
Bryan	Mejia-Sosa	Blacker	Ruddock	Isaac	Kim	Fleming	Avery
Bryance	Oyang	Fleming	Page	Isabella	Hurtado-Bra	Fleming	Ricketts
Cameron	Allen	Page	Lloyd	Isabella	Tromba	Ruddock	Fleming
Caroline	Yu	Fleming	Avery	Ivan	Santillan	Ricketts	Lloyd
Carolyn	Zhang	Lloyd	Page	Jacob	Cole	Ricketts	Lloyd
Catherine	Ngai	Fleming	Lloyd	Jacob	Hurwitz	Lloyd	Blacker
Cesar	Cuenca	Lloyd	Dabney	Jacob	Shenker	Blacker	Dabney
Charles	Liu	Blacker	Fleming	Jacqueline	Sly	Avery	Ricketts
Charlotte	Kirk	Page	Ruddock	Jacquelyn	Phillips	Ruddock	Page
Chelsea	Powell	Ruddock	Page	Jaime	Nagel	Fleming	Lloyd
Chenyu	Zhao	Avery	Page	James	Chang	Ricketts	Ruddock

First	Last	Thu Dinner	Fri Dessert	First	Last	Thu Dinner	Fri Dessert
James	Leet	Page	Avery	Michelle	Tang	Fleming	Lloyd
James	Lu	Fleming	Ruddock	Mike	Qian	Lloyd	Avery
Jarvis	Li	Ricketts	Ruddock	Misha	Raffee	Fleming	Dabney
Jason	Engel	Ricketts	Avery	Monica	He	Lloyd	Avery
Jay	Shah	Ruddock	Page	Monisha	Dilip	Fleming	Page
Jeana	Hayashigawa	Avery	Fleming	Nandini	Mukherjee	Avery	Blacker
Jeff	Han	Ruddock	Avery	Neal	Desai	Lloyd	Dabney
Jeffrey	Prouty	Ruddock	Fleming	Neeli	Mishra	Blacker	Fleming
Jeffrey	Seiden	Fleming	Page	Nicholas	Woodward	Fleming	Ricketts
Jeffrey	Sherman	Ruddock	Dabney	Nils	Molina	Blacker	Avery
Jeffrey	Zhang	Dabney	Avery	Not Kevin	Young	Ricketts	Blacker
Jennifer	Li	Lloyd	Dabney	Oleksandr	Stubailo	Page	Ruddock
Jenny	Hu	Fleming	Avery	Omar	Mezener	Avery	Page
Jenny	Yung	Page	Avery	Paige	Logan	Ruddock	Ricketts
Jenny	Zhang	Ruddock	Fleming	Pallavi	Bugga	Avery	Ruddock
Jessica	Hsu	Fleming	Ruddock	Parker	Finch	Ricketts	Blacker
Jessica	Yeung	Fleming	Dabney	Parul	Kathuria	Page	Fleming
Jessica	Yu	Avery	Fleming	Paul	Reshetikhin	Dabney	Ruddock
Jetson	Leder-Luis	Avery	Ruddock	Perren	Yang	Ricketts	Ruddock
Jim	Tao	Avery	Page	Peter	Qiao	Ruddock	Dabney
Jocelyn	Kishi	Ricketts	Blacker	Prabhav	Jain	Page	Lloyd
John	Ibrahim	Lloyd	Fleming	Pranjal	Vachaspati	Ricketts	Blacker
John	Pharo	Page	Ruddock	Prastuti	Singh	Page	Lloyd
Jonathan	Ikpeazu	Ruddock	Dabney	Pratiksha	Thaker	Ricketts	Dabney
Jonathan	Park	Lloyd	Fleming	Pritee	Tembhekar	Page	Dabney
Jonathan	Reyes	Blacker	Ricketts	Puikei	Cheng	Avery	Dabney
Jonathan	Schor	Lloyd	Ricketts	Pushpa	Neppala	Ruddock	Dabney
Jordan	Thayer	Avery	Fleming	Rachel	Hess	Dabney	Fleming
Jose	Pons Vega	Ruddock	Fleming	Rachel	Luo	Avery	Fleming
Joseph	Torres	Ricketts	Ruddock	Raj	Katti	Avery	Ricketts
Josh	Chen	Dabney	Lloyd	Randall	Lin	Avery	Ruddock
Joshua	Fromm	Dabney	Fleming	Rebekah	Kitto	Fleming	Lloyd
Juan	Huertas	Dabney	Page	Robert	Johnson	Dabney	Blacker
Julia	Brown	Blacker	Ricketts	Robert	Morgan	Ruddock	Blacker
Julia	Jester	Ricketts	Avery	Robin	Wu	Lloyd	Fleming
Julia	Ziac	Ricketts	Lloyd	Ryan	Poladian	Blacker	Page
Juliette	Becker	Fleming	Lloyd	Sabrina	Dodgin	Ricketts	Dabney
Kaixi	Wang	Ricketts	Fleming	Sadaf	Amouzegar	Fleming	Ruddock
Kalpana	Suraesh	Fleming	Ruddock	Samantha	Arman	Fleming	Ruddock
Kamal	Ndousse	Lloyd	Fleming	Samantha	Piszkiejewicz	Page	Blacker
Kanenori	Okamoto	Blacker	Avery	Samuel	Bankman-Fi	Ruddock	Avery
Katherine	Li	Ruddock	Avery	Samuel	Keller	Blacker	Ruddock
Katherine	Nabel	Page	Avery	Santiago	Perez	Ricketts	Blacker
Kathleen	Hoza	Blacker	Dabney	Sawyer	Brooks	Page	Lloyd
Kathryn	Knister	Page	Fleming	Sei	Masuoka	Dabney	Fleming
Katja	Luxem	Dabney	Page	Seohyun	Kim	Dabney	Fleming
Kelsey	Spaur	Ricketts	Ruddock	Seth	Perlman	Page	Fleming
Kevin	Mehall	Lloyd	Page	Shinjini	Mukherjee	Fleming	Blacker
Klavdia	Zemlianova	Fleming	Page	Shiyu	Li	Fleming	Blacker
Kristin	Barclay	Dabney	Blacker	Sidhi	Assawaworri	Avery	Lloyd
Laura	Santoso	Page	Ruddock	Sindhu	Manivasaga	Lloyd	Dabney
Lawrence	Jenkins	Avery	Lloyd	Skyler	Seto	Blacker	Dabney
Lawrence	Xing	Dabney	Lloyd	Soojung	Ha	Ricketts	Ruddock
Leon	Zhang	Blacker	Avery	Srinjoy	Sil	Page	Dabney
Leonardo	Stedile	Avery	Ricketts	Srishti	Kedia	Dabney	Avery

Li	Gu	Dabney	Ruddock	Stephanie	Laga	Blacker	Page
Lia	Bogoev	Fleming	Ricketts	Steve	Hirabayashi	Ruddock	Avery
Lindsay	Sanneman	Avery	Page	Steven	Lee	Ricketts	Lloyd
Ling	Yeung	Dabney	Lloyd	Steven	Southall	Avery	Dabney
Lucille	Benoit	Avery	Blacker	Steven	Valdez	Lloyd	Blacker
Luka	Mernik	Lloyd	Fleming	Susan	Ballentine	Blacker	Ruddock
Malvika	Verma	Ruddock	Avery	Susan	Liao	Blacker	Lloyd
Marie	Rice	Avery	Fleming	Theresa	Lee	Lloyd	Avery
Mark	Benjamin	Blacker	Dabney	Tianyang	Zou	Avery	Ruddock
Mateo	Martinez	Page	Dabney	Tiffany	Huang	Fleming	Lloyd
Matthew	Redmond	Ruddock	Dabney	Timothy	Zhu	Blacker	Lloyd
Matthew	Stadnik	Dabney	Ruddock	Todd	Cramer	Ruddock	Page
Max	Hirschhorn	Ruddock	Avery	Tonia	Ahmed	Avery	Lloyd
Maxwell	Horton	Ruddock	Blacker	Tracie	Kong	Ruddock	Avery
Maya	Kailas	Blacker	Page	Trisha	Guchait	Blacker	Fleming
Megan	Mikhail	Ruddock	Fleming	Tylee	Lin	Blacker	Fleming
Melinda	Wang	Ricketts	Avery	Valere	Lambert	Page	Avery
Melis	Tekant	Ruddock	Blacker	Vanya	Britto	Avery	Lloyd
Michael	Dieterle	Page	Fleming	Yanwen	You	Blacker	Lloyd
Michael	Hernandez	Fleming	Dabney	Yeonjeong	Cho	Dabney	Ruddock
Michael	Paluchniak	Dabney	Page	Yu	Qi	Lloyd	Fleming
Michael	Tingley	Fleming	Ruddock	Yu	Zhou	Dabney	Lloyd
Michael	Williamson	Blacker	Lloyd	Yuchen	Lin	Dabney	Ruddock
Michael	Yurko	Page	Avery	Yuchen	Wang	Blacker	Ruddock
Michael	Zhang	Ricketts	Avery	Yuqian	Fang	Blacker	Avery
Michelle	Chen	Blacker	Ruddock	Yuqian	Zheng	Ricketts	Dabney

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes
April 5, 2010

Officers Present: Adam Khan, Tim Black, Brian Merlob, Chris Hallacy, Addie Rice, Prakriti Gaba

Officers Absent: Karthik Sarma

Guests Present: Neha Samdaria

Call to order: 2:08 pm

Funding Requests:

- ASCIT take a prof to lunch: Brian Merlob requested Student-Faculty Lunch funding. We approve. (6-0-0)

President's report:

- **Pasadena games:** Caltech won the “Pasadena games” with a lot of support from ASCIT members and participants from all the houses.
- **Harvey Mudd Party:** The party will hopefully take place in the RF courtyard. Discussions with Fleming house and Ricketts house will begin soon for their approval. The goal is to try to get each house involved with the party in some form (i.e. drinks, activities, dance, music, etc.). A date for the party hasn't been set yet.

Officer Reports:

- **V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair):** Names are and have been submitted in the Dean search committee and sign ups for food committee chair, ath man, and several other positions are available. Prefrosh weekend plans are being arranged. Tim has also started working on plans for Rotation plans.
- **Operations Director:** Club funding has been accounted for and work has been done on arranging the big T.
- **Treasurer:** Little T requested funding and Blacker asked for funding for interhouse preparations, both of which has been taken care of. Hallacy has also discussed funding issues about the Harvey Mudd party with Tom Mannion.
- **Social director:** ASCIT movie, Iron man 2, will be arranged soon. Addie has also been working on arranging the Harvey Mudd party by going to meet with people at their campus on Sunday with Adam. She hopes to put together a trip to San Diego in May. It will include travel to the San Diego beach, zoo, or sea world. Funding will come primarily from ASCIT budget.

Discussion:

- **ASCIT Formal:** With the current budget situation and lack of interest from the upperclassmen, debate is going on as to whether or not ASCIT formal should be held this year, and if it is planned, then whether it should take place on campus or at a hotel. Prakriti suggested that a hotel party would be ideal especially since this year's freshman class did not have their orientation off-campus either.
- **Big Interhouse:** is being planned hopefully for first term next year since it hasn't actually taken place for the past two years.
- **Minutes:** will be posted online as well as on the ASCIT bulletin board.
- **ASCIT Meetings:** will take place on the olive walk on Mondays at 2:10 pm.
- **Meditation Room:** Looking to find space in the SAC to allocate to a student meditation room.

Scheduling:

- **Budget Meeting:** It will take place this Sunday at Tom Manion's house 10am.
- **Club Funding Meeting:** It will be arranged so that 5 minutes are spent per club. A date for the meeting will be set soon.
- **ASCIT Retreat:** will take place on April 24-25th at Catalina Islands.

Glee Returns!

By Vivian Yang

The mid-season premiere for a new Fox T.V. show Glee played on Tuesday night and many girls (and guys and parents and teachers and single women) across the country squealed in delight. A new community of so-called 'gleeks' has formed in online communities, where any kind of person can call themselves a gleek if they enjoy cover songs, high school melodrama, or just a few good quality laughs.

Summary:

Revolving around a high school glee club called "New Directions", the musical-comedy-drama television series Glee is an up-scaled High School Musical that takes us through the daily lives of musically gifted students who belong to different strata of the high school hierarchy. Most prominently, we are introduced to the battle between the popular kids (football players and their cheerleading girlfriends) and the geeks (the kid in the wheelchair, the girl with the stammer, the flamboyant gay guy who's not out of the closet, the black girl with the 'tude, and the ambitious diva who's goal in life is to bask in the applause and affection of others). Unlike other T.V. shows based on the lives of high school students, we also follow the story of several teachers at the school, most notably, the Spanish teacher who seeks to relive the glory days of his glee club and the insult-flinging, sexist, racist cheerleading coach. The plot is pushed forward by the conflict between these two characters in addition to the budding romance that traverses through every high school hallway.

Mid-season premiere main points:

Sue, the suspended cheerleading coach, finagles her way back to her coaching position and is determined to bring New Directions and their coach Will down for goo.

Finn needs time away from girls and breaks up with Rachel to go out with both Santana and Brittany, two "Cheerios" (ie cheerleaders) who were enlisted by Sue in the first half of this season to act as spies in the glee club. By the end of this episode, Finn realizes that he only wants to be with Rachel.

Rachel meets Jesse St. James, lead male vocal of the rival glee club Vocal Adrenaline, and sings and falls in love with him. The rest of the glee club is upset that she would compromise all of their hard work for a "relationship that probably won't even work."

Will and Emma begin to date, after their epic kiss at the end of the first half, but Emma becomes overwhelmed by the fast pace of their relationship. In the end, Will decides to take the advice he gave Finn at the beginning of the episode. He wants some time to learn what kind of single person he is, without the confusion and strings of a relationship.



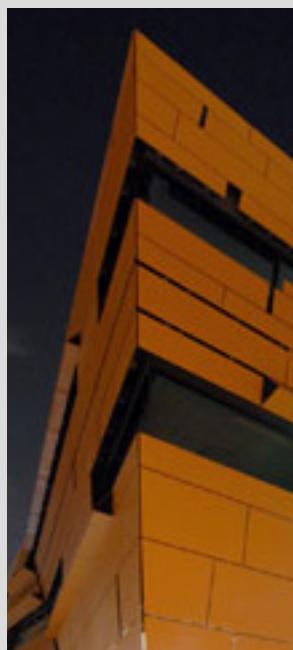
<http://gleefansite.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/GleeCast.jpg>

From top to bottom, left to right. **Finn**, football player with conflicting interests in athletics and music; love interest: Quinn and Rachel. **Quinn**, cheerleader who gets kicked off the squad for being pregnant, dupes Finn into thinking that he's the baby's father, love interest: Finn. **Puck**, football player (and player) who joins Glee to get Finn back on the team, the baby's daddy, love interest: Quinn. **Mercedes**, African American with a big voice and a big heart, love interest: Kurt (yes, the gay guy). Top, **Sue**, racist cheerleading coach who causes most of the problems the Glee Club faces. Bottom, **Will**, new Spanish teacher at McKinley High School determined to bring back the glorious Glee Club, his wife has a hysterical pregnancy and lies to him about it, love interest: Emma, the school counselor. **Artie**, kind and sensitive boy in the wheelchair, love interest: Tina. **Tina**, the stuttering one of two Asian characters, defiant and tough, but secretly looking for acceptance, love interest: Artie. **Kurt**, gay student who has one episode devoted to his coming out of the closet to his father, competes with Rachel for star roles, love interest (kinda): Finn. **Rachel**, dedicated and the most talented soprano who aspires to sing on stage, love interest: Finn.

From the Editors

Prefrosh!

Can you name where all the following are found at Caltech? Come to our California Tech booth at the Club fair on Friday with your answers. Be the first 30 students and get a free MIT prank newspaper.



2009-2010 Financial Aid Hard Deadline

Reminder – the Financial Aid Office has a hard deadline and will not process any applications for financial aid completed after April 23, 2010. Therefore if you are still planning on applying for aid for the 2009-2010 academic year you must submit all the required documents before the published deadline. Otherwise, you will need to find alternative ways to finance your education at Caltech. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us by stopping by our office, calling at (626) 395-6280 or emailing us at finaid@caltech.edu.

Student Athlete of the Week: Brice Nzekou

1. What is your major?

Brice: Mechanical Engineering (with BEM)

2. People will be surprised to know...

Brice: People will be surprised to know that its my first time running track.

3. Favorite place to eat on the road?

Brice: Carls Jr.

4. Favorite book?

Brice: Angels and Demons

5. Describe your sport in three words?

Brice: Track is: Challenging, rewarding, technical

6. What teammate has inspired you the most?

Brice: Alex Lapidus

7. Favorite quote?

Brice: I don't really have one.

8. Where do you get motivation from when things get tough?

Brice: When things get tough, i find my motivation in my coaches and teammates.

9. If you hadn't come to Caltech where would you be now?

Brice: I would be at the University of Arizona or at MIT.

10. Who is your favorite player at Caltech, any sport?

Brice: Gray Chadwick

Upcoming Games

Wednesday, April 14th

7pm W Water Polo vs Pomona-Pitzer

Friday, April 16th

All-Day M Tennis SCIAC's @ Pomona

All Day W Tennis SCIAC's @ Whittier

3pm Baseball @ CMS

Saturday, April 17th

All-Day M Tennis SCIAC's @ Pomona

All Day W Tennis SCIAC's @ Whittier

11am Baseball vs CMS

11am W Water Polo @ Cal Lu

2pm Baseball vs CMS

4pm Track & Field @ Whittier SCIAC 4-Way

Weekly Horoscope

(Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Aries
Your newest model's assumptions will be all wrong. Oh ya, and cows ain't spheres.

(July 23 - Aug 22)
Leo
You can leave your cell uncharged: you will not receive a follow-up call after that interview.

(Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Sagittarius
You may come to realize the LHC data will start to arrive in your 8th year of graduate school.

(Apr 20 - May 20)
Taurus
Those photos of you lighting stuff on fire will leak on to Facebook, expect to hear from the deans.

(Aug 23 - Sept 22)
Virgo
Tomorrow you will learn that the problem you are trying to solve is considered a 'classic'.

(Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Capricorn
The only hard and fast rule of science you have discovered today: those who work less will achieve more.

(May 21 - June 20)
Gemini
As it turns out, you cannot both go to TND and pass Ph106 (insert other set due Friday)

(Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Libra
Somehow your assumptions about rationale behavior in economics are irrational.

(Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Aquarius
This week you will fall asleep in class all your classes.

(June 21 - July 22)
Cancer
Somehow your two minute to deadline email-in-pset was delayed and got there too late.

(Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Scorpio
Perhaps in the coming weeks you should branch out into new fields, and leave your old work behind.

(Feb 19 - Mar 20)
Pisces
Try to be understanding of those around you.

APPLES AND ORANGES



BY REBECCA LAWLER

