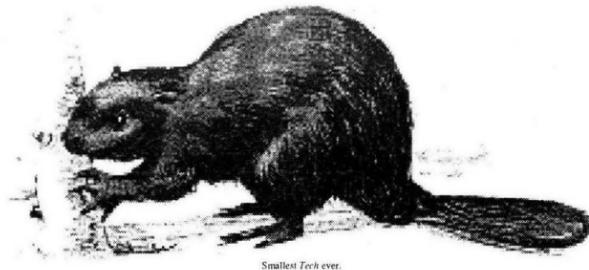


VOTE ON BoC

AMENDMENTS

TODAY!!!

AT: DONUT.CALTECH.EDU



ASCIT congratulates the following professors and TAs as recipients of Teaching Awards:

- Dr. Oscar Bruno
- Dr. Dirk Hundertmark
- Dr. Charles Peck
- Thomas Neenan, M.S.
- Edward McCafferey, J.D.
- Kjerstin Easton
- Loren Hoffman
- Dr. George Cheron
- Glenn George, M.S.

The California Tech

VOLUME CII, NUMBER 30

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 8, 2001

TACIT: IN SEARCH OF AN AUDIENCE!

BY MOHI KUMAR

"We've got a pimp, we've got a stripper...our own on-stage brothel!" Amy Duello (Sr, ME) on Six Characters in Search of an Author.

That's right, Techers! This weekend is your last chance to see Caltech's drama program's final show of the year! *Six Characters in Search of an Author* will be playing in Ramo Theater (underneath Baxter Hall) tonight and Saturday at 8:00 PM, as well as Sunday at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$5 for Caltech Students, \$10 for other students and \$15 for general admission

Luigi Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* explores the relationship between life, theatre and literature. Actors breath life and spirit into the characters they portray. But what if those characters were not just lines on a paper but living, breathing entities of their own right—entities incensed at the misrepresentation their actor-counterparts portrayed? Authors create characters, but if the author's inspiration dies, do the characters also die? Or do they float in a nether-region between the crushed paper they have become and the classic literature they yearn to be?

The result of blurring the line between fact and fiction is a recipe for on-stage madness. But for a watching audience, TACIT's *Six Characters* is nothing short of hilarious. Stubborn actors and temperamental divas clash with the very obstinacy and hot-headedness they are trying to portray. Sarcasm is rampant, and mockery is epidemic. Who could ask for more?

Moreover, the play is especially adapted for Caltech audiences. TACIT director Shirley Marneus gives free reign to the improvisational opportunities built into the script by setting the scene to be a rehearsal of *Othello*, last term's TACIT production. Although some lines have its roots in bizarre and comic rehearsal happenstances of *Othello*, these improvisations have universal appeal to anyone who has been involved in theater—the chaos surrounding quirky personalities, missing actors and missed cues, is witty and humorous.

Each of the title six characters are complex figures that purposely offset the humor of the rehearsal they interrupt. In particular, Oana Tocoian (So, E&AS, Lit) very believably por-

New beaver mascot unveiled

BY IRAM PARVEEN BILAL

Incidentally, www.dictionary.com defines a mascot as "a person, animal, or object believed to bring good luck, especially one kept as the symbol of an organization such as a sports team."

If observed, it seemed that Caltech was not really using the beaver, its good luck sign since the early 1900s, in its usual way for the recent past and hence needed to bring up the issue of the fading beaver.

Hence the Alumni Association, the Caltech Bookstore and the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) came up with a contest a few months ago for designing a

new beaver. This was done to give the mascot a consistent look that could be used on sportswear and stationary. The SAAC handled the contest entries and then just a few days ago, came up with the lucky winner, Jason Wong, a Junior, who gets \$250 for his commendable job.

Timothy Downes, the Director of Athletics commented on the issue by saying, "We want to go back to the traditional use of the mascot."

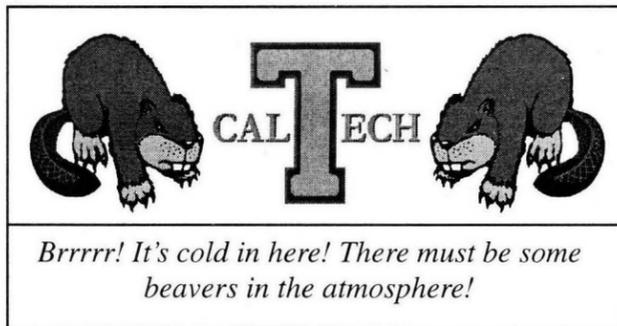
He added that the Athletics facilities department will get the mascot into its final form

so that it can be used on the website, stationary and on some of the sports uniforms as soon as possible.

However, he agreed with the significance of the mascot, "I think that it gives any sports team, whether it is Caltech's or any other college's, an identity."

Although, the new mascot might not be used as much as people are expecting its use because many college sports uniforms do not

necessarily bear it and because it has reached a different usage level for Caltech, it is comforting to know that we finally have a standard mascot to use on any Caltech-related affairs whenever needed.



Vote on BoC Bylaw changes today!

SUBMITTED BY TED JOU

All undergraduates may vote online today between 9:30 AM and 10:30 PM at <http://donut.caltech.edu/vote>.

Last week's Tech article concerning the BoC Bylaws had several errors and omissions, which are corrected here:

The article should have been credited to Laura Brogoch, former BoC Chair. The proposed Bylaw amendments were not approved by the Board of Control (BoC); they were proposed to the ASCIT Board of Directors (BoD) by Laura Brogoch and the BoD approved an official action to hold an election to amend the Bylaws. The Bylaws will only be amended with a 2/3 majority vote of the undergraduate student body. The proposed changes are repeated here for clarity. New material is in *italics* and new subsections are indicated with asterisks (**). The complete ASCIT Bylaws can be found in the little t.

ASCIT Bylaws ARTICLE VII--THE BOARD OF CONTROL

SECTION 2--MEMBERSHIP (b) A candidate may declare his candidacy in any House, but all students shall vote in the

House with which they are affiliated at the time of the election. Students not affiliated with any House may register to vote in the House of their choice. Students not registered nor affiliated with a House at the time of the election may not vote. *Students affiliated with more than one House may only vote in one House.*

SECTION 3--RULES OF PROCEDURE.

*** (b) During the preliminary investigation, all potential defendants will be informed of any current or former Board members or House presidents who may hear the case.*

*** (f) No Board representative shall conduct any investigation outside a hearing except at the instruction of the Chairman.*

(i) If a defendant feels that particular Board members are unable to render an unbiased judgment, a request may be made to the Chairman or the Dean before the start of the full Board hearing that those members not sit on the case. *Final discretion for dismissal of voting Board members lies with the Chairman and Secretary.*

(j) If made necessary by subsections (g), (h), or (i) in order to maintain a full quorum of the

Board, the Board shall reserve the right to ask any past members of the Board of Control to serve on a case, contingent on a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the remaining voting Board members. In the case that full quorum is not met using all eligible current and past members, the Board reserves the right to ask the House Presidents to serve on the case. Each House President must be approved by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the remaining Board members. All those serving on a case are bound to secrecy as stated in subsection (s). House Presidents who have served on a case are not considered former members of the Board of Control. *Accordingly, past House Presidents (unless current or former Board members) may not serve on a case.*

(k) Any person asked to attend a preliminary investigation may be accompanied by any *current or former Board member* of his choice.

*** (m) Before the Board votes to convict, the defendant will be shown all physical evidence pertaining to his case and given a reasonable opportunity to respond.*

*** (n) Before a vote for conviction or dismissal, all aspects of the case must be thoroughly considered.*

(n) A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the voting members of the Board present shall be necessary for a decision of the Board *except case dismissal, which shall require a simple majority.*

(r) The Board of Control has the right to collaborate with the Graduate Review Board, the Dean of Students, ~~and~~ the Director of Residence Life *and the Conduct Review Committee.*

*** (s) In cases resulting in conviction, the Chair and Secretary must make clear to the defendant the Board's basis for its decisions, including but not limited to the main line of reasoning that led to*

Inside the Tech

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ASCIT

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

JUNE 4, 2001

Present: BoD – Dana. Guests: Laura Brogoch, Gerald Palmrose, Janet Zhou, Isaac See.

Last meeting of the school year called to order at 5:40 PM, to be celebrated with celery and carrot sticks, cauliflower and brocolli bunches, dip, and apple cider.

Guests : Janet, Fleming Social frosh, asked for \$200 towards BFP (Inter-house event) and \$200 for the BBQ accompanying the Page-Fleming frosh football game (Multi-house event). Both requests were granted.

The discussion then turned to the confusion about the BoC By-Laws amendments that were printed in the past issue of the *Tech*. The BoD simply approved the wording of the changes that will appear on the ballot, but the undergraduate body will be voting whether to institute the

proposed changes on Friday. However, no statement about the election was printed. Some BoC reps also complained that they were not given adequate time to prepare pro and con arguments, as the current BoC body was not responsible for drafting the changes and were pre-occupied with the initial discussion. There is also some concern that presenting a document to a student found guilty that lists the reasons for conviction may not be legal. E-mails advertising the election, which will be performed exclusively online through <http://donut.caltech.edu/vote> will be sent to all undergraduates. The webpage will also include additional pro/con arguments that were not prepared in time for last week's issue. The *Tech* will reserve space in this week's issue to print clarifications and issue its retraction.

Laura adds that meetings scheduled for dialogue about the proposed changes have not been well attended.

Isaac See dropped by for a few minutes to verify the logistics of the election Friday. Again, all voting will be performed online through the

donut website. Each proposed By-Law change will be displayed next to its original form on the website, with an accompanying checkbox giving the voter the option to either approve or reject the new form. The BoD debated whether to open the website to opinions from the entire undergraduate community, but this may set a precedent for campaigning at the voting booth. Consequently, the right to post pro/con arguments will be limited to the current BoC representatives. The BoD would also like the voting site to implement an option for students to record their house affiliation for statistical purposes.

General Meeting
Joe Jewell requests \$200 Interhouse funding for the Lloyd house party

A portion of the budget has been designated for the Web Development Team, but there are no resolutions currently in place to provide a rationale for paying them, or maintaining the donut.caltech.edu site. A resolution must also be drafted to make online voting formal.

A few students applying for the

IHC-appointed student-faculty committees raised a complaint that members of the interviewing body were also applying for some of the positions, thus creating a conflict of interest. There are no guidelines in place regarding whether a member of an interviewing body applying for one of the positions should remove him/herself temporarily when other candidates have face-time. While members of the IHC, ARC, and ASCIT are placed in office with the understanding that they would not be biased, a representative should not be placed in the position of possibly being accused of expressing bias or having an unfair advantage because he/she has had the chance to listen to the statements of other candidates. In the future, ASCIT requests that such representatives remove themselves from the appointing body while other candidates are interviewing.

A new resolution is drafted concerning club funding, penalties for picking up funding late and the slush fund, from which clubs may receive funds if they fail to present at the annual Budget Meeting but only

under special circumstances and at the discretion of the BoD.

Teaching awards! A list of 10 professors, 5 TAs, and candidates for the Lifetime Achievement Award, selected from nominations submitted to the ARC, were presented to the BoD as potential recipients of teaching awards. The BoD gave final approval to 5 professors: Dr. Oscar Bruno, Thomas Neenan, M.S., Dr. Dirk Hundertmark, Dr. Charles Peck, Edward McCaffery, J.D.; 2 TAs: Loren Hoffman and Kjerstin Easton; and 2 Lifetime Achievement Award recipients: Dr. George Cheron and Glen George. The BoD extends its gratitude to these recipients for their inspiration and exceptional commitment to teaching undergraduates and for passing enough of us so that we're happy.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM. ASCIT extends a fond farewell and well wishes to the class of 2001. Thanks for surviving and showing us the light at the end of the scary tunnel.

Evidently,
Justin

REAL THE REAL WORLD

BY JIALAN WANG

When we think of the "real world," we usually think of a place not so different from our current environment, except people have to wake up early, be politically correct and actually work for a living. Basically, it is the world our parents live in, and that's as real as it gets, right?

Consciously or subconsciously, that's what most of us think, but the sad truth is that this real world that most of us will inhabit is not real at all. It is merely the user interface to the real real world, a place much to scary for us smart kids to want to venture to. Although we rarely notice it, many processes in our everyday lives act kind of like little black boxes, or even more apt, like vending machines. We input money, stuff comes out or stuff gets done. All the dirty work in between is unseen and uncared about.

For instance, when we throw stuff away, do any of us give any thought to what "away" means? At home, we actually have to take trash out to the curb every week where it gets taken "away," but here on campus we simply deposit waste into these magical gray bins, and in the morning it's gone. As far as we are concerned, the trash could be going to China, into the ocean or to New Jersey, and

it wouldn't make one bit of difference. We just toss it, flush it, pour it down the drain, and that's the end of the line. Sure, we acknowledge the fact that the trash does not just dematerialize, but what happens to it is not a part of our reality. Because we don't visit landfills or have any direct experience with garbage after we have thrown it away, we subconsciously believe that it no longer affects us.

Not only are processes such as trash disposal and good production made invisible, but whole sectors of society are hidden from us. In my whole life, I've never known someone who was truly poor. I am sure that I went to school with them, stood in grocery store lines with them, and perhaps even shared a few perfunctory greetings with them, but poor people have never been a part of my life. We all see homeless people on the streets, but how many

of us have actually stopped to talk to them? We acknowledge their presence, but we don't know them as people. They are the people who clean our rooms, and pick up our garbage – merely props in the soap operas of our lives.

We all hear about war, poverty, and the bad effects of pollution, but in a very definite sense, these things are not a part of our reality. Ph 106 aside, few of us have had to endure any substantial hardship or suffering. Moreover, reality outside our comforting upper middle-class lives is carefully sanitized and turned into sound bites before reaching us, so by the time it does, it's indistinguishable from any fiction that we see on TV. Of course, it doesn't help that we hear about these things through the same mediums through which we view *Will and Grace* and read about fashion shows. Although we all try to empathize with the suffering and joys of others, there is a gap that cannot be bridged by anything other than experience. But how can we empathize when all of the grit of life has been cleansed from our environments?

We expect romance to be a Julia Roberts movie, friendship to be

Friends, and life itself to be a soap opera where everyone is cute, the biggest crisis is a bad hair day, and everything works out at the end of the hour. When harsher shards of reality actually do make their way into our lives, we don't know how to deal with them. We can barely even accept death anymore without making a Princess Diana-esque drama of the whole thing.

Just like the setting in the Jim Carrey movie *The Truman Show*, much of our world is a façade that hides deeper reality and harsher truth, only there's no reward or trophy girlfriend for finding it. It would be all too easy to continue wallowing in the non-threatening comfort of our sheltered lives, and there is really nothing wrong with that, but there is a whole wide world outside to be seen, to be touched and to be changed. We can't just ignore everything that offends our sense of propriety or makes us uncomfortable – because eventually New Jersey will run out of landfills, because things could be better, because not everyone is like us.

The truth is out there. Find it if you dare.

TACIT:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vengeful Stepdaughter; Karen Kahler (Staff, GePh) effortlessly transforms into her misunderstood, simple Mother. Other performances to note are Niels Hauksson and Joshua Adler (Caltech community members) portrayal of the sullen Little Boy whose actions shock the actors and audience as the play closes.

The Actors interrupted mid-rehearsal specialize in humor. Will's (Hans-Michael Muller, post-doc,

CRIPPLING DEPRESSION

www.CripplingDepression.com feedback@cripplingdepression.com
All characters are purely fictional. Any resemblance to any persons living or dead is coincidental. The views expressed are those of the authors, not those of the newspaper staff or Caltech.



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The Mint
 Web Designer/Programmer: The U.S. Geological Survey Earthquake Hazards Program office on campus has an opening for a summer full-time or part-time webpage designer. The job entails creating webpages for the Southern California and National EQ Hazards Program websites, under the supervision of the webmaster. If interested, please provide resume including web-related experience and skills. Contact Lisa Wald at 583-7822 or lisa@gps.caltech.edu.
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MAN WHO CRIED (R)
 [11:45] 2:20 4:55 7:30 10:05
BIG EDEN (PG-13)
 [11:30] 2:05 4:45 7:25 10:00
BRIDE OF THE WIND (R)
 [12:00] 2:25 4:50 7:15 9:45
WITH A FRIEND LIKE HARRY (R)
 [1:15] 4:05 7:00 9:55
ANNIVERSARY PARTY (R)
 [11:30] 2:10 4:50 7:30 10:05
MEMENTO (R)
 [11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:20 10:00
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Building Bridges: Community service ... and a lot more for the students, by the students

BY DANA IONITA

Building Bridges (BB) has been an active club on campus for about a year now. It has been focusing on community service opportunities, environmental and social issues, both locally and internationally. What makes BB different from other clubs is the fact that it is run by students very dedicated and enthusiastic about improving our school and our Pasadena community. The club has weekly meetings with all the 12 excomm members and every person is encouraged to take on a project of his/her choice. These projects range from feeding the homeless in Pasadena to helping out at an animal shelter to encouraging Caltech to adopt a "green roofs" program

(<http://www.peck.ca/grhcc/main.htm>). If you have your own ideas or projects you'd like to pursue or if you'd like to get to know your community better, feel free to come by and get involved! Building Bridges will continue its activities over the summer and next school year. Check us out at: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~bbridges/> And you can also contact any of the excomm members: Serena Eley, Dana Ionita, Wook Hwang, Abel Bourbois, Viji Balaraman, Jonathan Lee, Jialan Wang, Kristin Shantz, Yuki Takahashi, Francy Sung, Julie Norville, Yen Bui, or Lusine Danakian. Thank you to every single one of you guys for putting so much time and enthusiasm into making this club successful!

Dean

Dean's Corner

Au revoir

by Jean-Paul Revel

symmetrical with the goats you met at Frosh Camp when you arrived here, you who are to be our newest batch of alums. The goats on Catalina were wild, but the thought of goats reminded me of the relatively civilized ones I knew a long time ago, when I was still a boy in the French Alps. Even now I can hear the dong, dong of the big bell hanging around the neck of the Billy goat leader and the tintinabulating shriller tingles registering the movements of the rest of his flock.

But the image is not right, goats with their bony rumps and vertical pupils are just not majestic enough to fit well in the scene, they are too small, they smell and the way in which they wiggle their tails is too frisky. Maybe some Friesian cows would look more appropriate, heavy with milk hhm...better. maybe some of the Swiss brown Emmenthaler so slow and deliberate that they could pass for majestic? No good either, even with the aristocrats among cows, the special ones who provide the raw elixir used to make

gruyere. Farm animals are just too incongruous a presence on the Court of Man, although if this were elsewhere in the world, one of those places with a really long past, chicken running in an out of a thousand year old temples with a few scrawny buffaloes lounging about, would be deemed picturesque. But here in the urban early XXI century farmyard beasties are just out of place. There are not enough olive trees to fit in with the goats or pine trees to complement the heavy bellied cows. And the lawn makes for an altogether too flat a meadow. It might do near Gouda in the green heart of the Netherlands, but then where are the windmills and the canals?

The scenery fits better as a ceremonial space (when not used for hand ball or Frisbee), as a gathering place, the setting for our Commencement Ceremonies. I can hear the President already, intoning, "By the powers vested in me." I can anticipate the thrill, the shiver of excitement. But things are not quite ready yet. The grass is luscious, but hasn't yet been mowed neatly, nor have chairs been set in neat rows, the platform erected, the awning stretched. So we can

only hope that the lovely scenery will last while lists of graduating students are still being passed around faculty committees and the seniors are busy with their last set of final exams. The scenery is well ahead of the rest of the production. it will take another week for all of it to come together. Lets hope that by then the view will not be smudged with smog. But will you be looking at the mountains next Friday at 10am?

While waiting around we have been celebrating those of you who have done especially well. We have been handing out prizes, giving awards, celebrating achievements. This gave me to wonder what the Caltech experience had been like for all of you, not just for the superstars. In the first of my first column after you arrived here I wrote "Welcome to Caltech, you select and special few women and men, chosen from among the thousands of applicants who thought they had the stuff you have."

I went on to tell you we were here to give you what you hoped for when you decided to come here. Well did we? Did you take advantage of our student to faculty ratio or was it just arithmetic because you never bothered (dared) to disturb a Prof.? Were you among those who did not go to lecture, who ignored TAs, who

could "never find" their advisor? Where you successful at learning new things, did you expand your understanding of the world, did you discover what you want to do for the rest of your life? Did you begin to learn how to balance the demands of life and the demands of work? Did you?

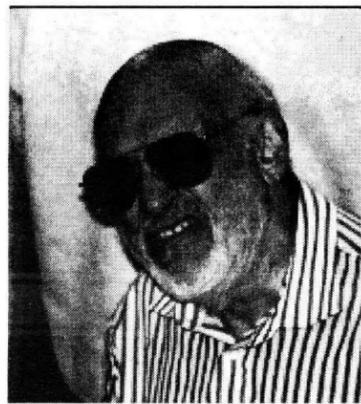
We hope that your Caltech experience will help you all in your futures. You leave prepared to tackle problems, to deduce things from first principles. That will serve you well whatever you do. It won't take a way the drudge should you decide to go to Med. or to Law School, where those hobgoblins, the facts, will be legions and test your mettle. But even there, having learned to think your way out of problems is going to be real useful. And once you have learned to drink from Caltech firehoses, you should be able to deal with firehoses anywhere.

So best wishes to you all, from A to Z, Orkun Akin to Summer Zhang, Abraham, Jorge, Regina, Eagle, Stona and Megan, Nita, Jason and Melinda, all of you, even those whose names I have not written. Best wishes and

Au revoir!



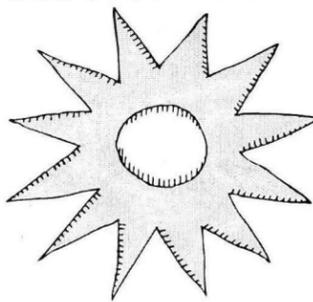
Jean-Paul Revel



There were a few dark and overcast days earlier but if you missed the warmth of the sun, it is really just a measure of how much of a native southern Californian you have become in the last four short years. I have to confess that I found the resulting cool temperatures pretty agreeable. I also have to admit that it was wonderful earlier this week to rediscover, resplendent as if freshly washed, the white coolie hat of Beckman Auditorium and in the background, our mountains, softened by a light haze. The scene had the airiness and feel of a delicate pastel, including a lovely blue sky with a few soft incipient clouds, instead of the big ominous gray fog that swallows everything, tentative, delicate wisps, barely thicker than the haze itself. The whole scene was idyllic.

There was something missing, though. Perhaps a few goats grazing the luscious grass in the foreground? That would provide a nice closure,

Don't Let Summer



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Survey finds much of Caltech's trash can be recycled

BY CLAUDINE CHEN

Walking back to work from the convenience store, you've drained your soda and have an empty bottle in hand. Being a good citizen, you wish there was a recycling bin but with none in sight, you toss it into the nearest trash bin. A quick peek into any outdoor bin reveals that this scenario is played out every day.

Members of the Caltech Environmental Task Force (CETF) and Building Bridges conducted a survey two weeks ago to determine how much "trash" that is thrown in the trash bins outside of campus buildings and the student houses is recyclable. The striking result was that 30-40% of the content found in the trash bins consisted of valuable recyclable plastic and glass bottles and aluminum cans. In the patio area outside of Chandler and the Red Door Cafe, the total volume could have been reduced by 50% if all paper cups from the Red Door Cafe were recycled along with all the

plastic, glass, and aluminum.

"We don't have to accept this level of waste," said Delmy Emerson, Caltech's recycling coordinator. "Use of disposable cups can be drastically reduced if substantial incentives exist for customers to bring in their own mugs to the Red Door." Also, Claudine Chen of CETF commented that waste could be reduced "if the cafe used ceramic mugs or glasses for drinks by default, which I think most customers would prefer to use anyway."

Fortunately, the recycling office is committed to introducing outdoor recycling to Caltech. Three recycling stations have already been ordered, and when they arrive they will

be placed outside of Chandler, near the undergraduate student mailboxes, and near Throop garden. However, Jennie Stephens of CETF believes more action may be needed. "Although these three outdoor recycling bins will be a significant improvement to the current situation, the CETF survey demonstrates that if Caltech made a larger investment in outdoor recycling bins by ensuring that all outdoor trash bins had an adjacent recycling container, there would be a significant reduction in the "trash" produced on campus. This would result in an associated increase in the amount of recyclable items that bring in revenue when they are sold to be re-

cycled."

Delmy Emerson made additional comments about recycling in the recycling center on Holliston Ave. She encourages patrons to help keep an eye out for improper recycling, and not to feel shy about educating other recyclers about contamination in the bins. "Recycling is a joint effort and everyone should participate in putting recyclables in the proper containers."

The volunteers who donated their time to the survey were Jennie Stephens, Doug Smith, Yuki Takahashi, Kathryn Todd, Ania Mitros, Lou Madsen, Dana Ionita, Serena Eley, Spencer Mortensen, and Claudine Chen.

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