



Presidential Candidates Square Off in Tight Election; Promises Range From 'Communication' to Doughnuts

By KAYTE FISCHER

TOM FLETCHER JIALAN WANG JANET ZHOU LIBIN ZHANG

Four candidates for president—Tom Fletcher '04, Jialan Wang '04, Janet Zhou '04 and Libin Zhang '05—and two for vice president—Galen Loram '05 and Anita Choi '04—square off next week in what is widely expected to be among the tightest of elections in years.

With the resolution of the health insurance and *Vectors* issues, the job of the president will focus on enhancing the quality of student life and fostering better relations between students and faculty. Additionally, with the failure of the recent amendment to create a so-called "director at large," the President will personally oversee the student representatives unless a new position is created.

By the same token, if the candidates' plans are any indication, the ASCIT Corporation is also on the verge of some major internal reforms, hopefully creating better communication between students and the board of directors.

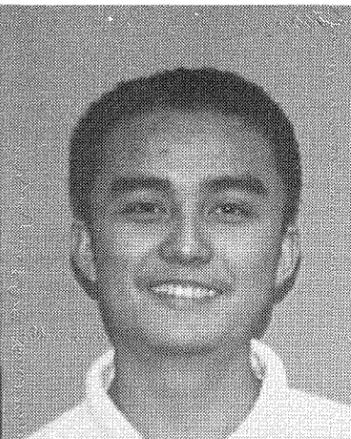
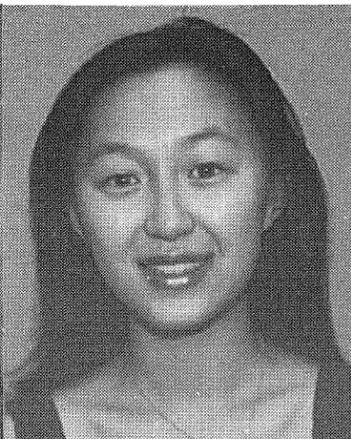
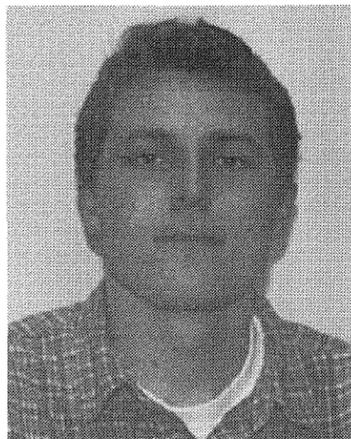
"The most important quality of an ASCIT president is an open mind," said ASCIT President Ted Jou '03. "The job is not about having your own strong opinions, but about taking the common interests of the student body and fighting for them."

Meanwhile, the vice president will be in a unique position to address issues with the honor code. "As the Chairman of the Board of Control, the ASCIT vice president would need to be fair-minded while also having solid knowledge of the BoC procedures. A strong sense of personal honor and experience on BoC cases are the most important prerequisites," noted Jou.

Fletcher, Zhou, Wang and Zhang each believe they have this "open mind"; and Choi and Loram, that they're endowed with this "strong sense of personal honor."

Quality of Life

Presidential candidates are mainly concerned about improving the quality of life for the student body. Most believe that increased communication between the student body and its representatives and the administration would accomplish



this task. Wang hopes to focus on academics, making it a higher priority among high-level administration.

Says Fletcher, "[Improving] the quality of life of the student body at Caltech... should be ASCIT's major responsibility and everything I do will be focused around this goal."

A major issue to many candidates is that many students dislike and distrust the ASCIT BoD. Although several years ago, the BoD dealt infrequently with many student concerns, more recently the focus has changed.

"Although many of the students' complaints about ASCIT are simply untrue," said Wang, "it is the BoD's responsibility to win back the favor of the student body."

Zhou concurred, pointing to new ground broken. "We began a program last year where the BoD visited each of the houses for a desert night," she explained, "and I think such a program is a good starting place for progress."

Fletcher is more concerned about a perceived lack of respect among administrators for concerns and desires of the student body. He also hopes to increase student participation on committees, hold ASCIT meetings in a more open place such as the Olive Walk and foster a more influential newspaper. "At most schools, the student newspaper is not a joke," he said. "It's a serious magazine that competes with city newspapers in terms of quality."

Zhang bases most of his platform on the so-called "Doughnut Problem." He would like to offer a variety of alternatives to doughnuts, increase doughnut distribution and subsidize doughnuts in the kitchens.

The vice presidential candidates are more interested in increasing support and understanding of the BoC and Honor Code. Both Choi and Loram sit on the BoC currently as Fleming's representative and representative at large, respectively.

For her part, Choi looks forward to educating new members of the Caltech community and dealing with issues and concerns about the honor code.

Loram would focus on honing the BoC's image. "I would try to help build people's faith in the BoC, perhaps by having a bit more transparency in the sorts of cases that we deal and other statistical—and thus anonymous—data on the cases the BoC sees," he said.

\$3 Million Endowment

Candidates have various ideas about how to spend the recently endowed \$3 million earmarked for enhancing the quality of student life. Wang hopes to use part of the budget to stage voluntary workshops to help professors and TAs learn better teaching techniques. Fletcher hopes to invest some money into improving the *Tech*, creating more motivation for better content. He also hopes to subsidize inter-house events. Additionally, he

believes that ASCIT should maintain a fund to recognize Caltech staff who put their hearts into making the campus a better place.

"ASCIT should recognize people like Alice at the Tech Express or any of the awesome servers in the kitchens," he said. "A small gift certificate and a letter to those people who make our lives so much better will show them how much we care and help strengthen the bond between the staff and the students."

Zhou believes the endowment should be used for events chosen from proposals from a wide variety of students, since the endowment is for the benefit of all students.

"The accepted proposals will be chosen by a committee so a proposal from any student will be given serious and equal consideration," she explained.

On a more profitable note, Zhang's plans revolve around investing in a Krispy Kreme franchise, which costs only \$1 million, according to his research.

Vice presidential candidates have similar ideas for the use of the endowment. Loram suggests that increasing funding for clubs would help them accomplish more and serve as a catalyst to increase student involvement around campus. Choi is hesitant to make a list of uses for the money and hopes to have input from a broad selection of students.

"I do think we are very fortunate to have received this endowment and that the changes we make with this money should not only improve the current quality of life, but also have a positive impact on the lives of future incoming students," she said.

Internal Reforms

In terms of internal reforms, presidential candidates favor moving towards greater representation of the student body and focusing on more important issues.

Wang noted that this year's BoD

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Students, Staff Noodle With 'Ideas for Today'

By ROBERT LI

On Wednesday, the "MLK: Ideas for Today" forum hosted a small group of graduate students and staff in a discussion of the manifestations of nonviolence today, from universal questions on the "purity" of nonviolence as a movement to the Caltech-specific moral implications of accepting grants for research with potential military applications.

The forum took place at noon on the second floor of the Center for Student Services. Attendance was around 25 people—mostly graduate students and staff. The topic of the forum: "Nonviolent Social Change: Relevant Today?"

After a traditional Southern meal of BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes and corn bread, the discussion began. Assistant Director of International Student Programs James Endrizzi started by speaking briefly about the purpose of the forum. He then introduced Director of Minority Student Education Erica O'Neal to lead the discussion.

Ms. O'Neal first gave a brief biographical background of Martin Luther King, Jr. She then followed by noting that King visited Caltech in 1957 and afterwards wrote a letter suggesting a list of changes that Caltech should make. Ms. O'Neal commented that she was very dis-

appointed to learn that none of the suggested changes were made.

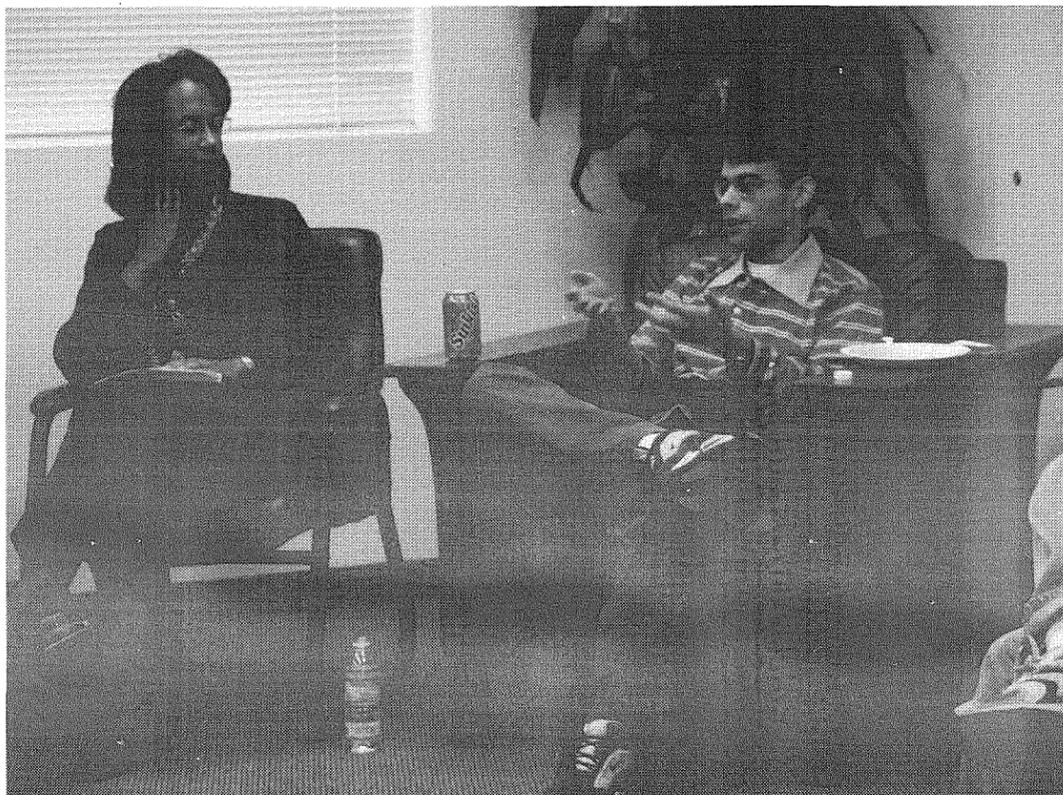
Several excerpts from a sermon by King talking about the importance of nonviolent protest were also read and at their conclusion, Ms. O'Neal opened up the floor to discussion by posing the namesake question: "Is nonviolent social change relevant today?"

Though people were initially hesitant to speak, the discussion gradually gravitated towards Ghandi and his personal beliefs of nonviolent protest.

One graduate student made the point that nonviolent protest in the Ghandian fashion means that one must "purify one's self and thoughts" and how he believed that most modern day nonviolent movements do not follow this principle. He cited an example from modern-day India where political parties often stage "nonviolent" protests and strikes as a means to gain political leverage when rival parties are voted to power.

After a discussion at length on the spiritual basis of nonviolent protests, the group changed its focus to the pervasiveness of U.S. military funding of Caltech research and what can be done about it. Several graduate students mentioned that their current funding is from

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D. Korta/The California Tech

Graduate students discuss the nonviolent tradition of Martin Luther King, Jr. at last Wednesday's MLK-themed open forum in the Center for Student Services.

Cacophony of Ideas Highlights Campaigns

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tends to spend meeting time on more trivial issues. Were she president, she would allot more meeting time to talking about issues that concern students and then invite appropriate BoD members to investigate them. If the bylaw forming a peer-review structure to gauge committee progress fails again in this week's vote, Wang would instead have members of a few committees come to BoD meetings to report on the committees' activities.

Zhou hopes to see the representatives make an effort to give more feedback to and from the student body. Currently, a newsgroup system on the *donut.caltech.edu* Web site is available to submit ideas. She pointed out that reforms come slowly and that recent reforms that were attempted seemed to please only one part of the student body while upsetting another. In response, Zhou hopes that the student body can come to a compromise in terms of the director at large position.

Fletcher, meanwhile, champions account-

ability in his campaign platform. "I think a lot of people feel that their money goes to ASCIT and they never see it come out," he said. He would like to increase the "transparency" of BoD functions.

"Transparency creates accountability," he explained, "and with accountability, stuff gets done." Additionally, Fletcher hopes to reintroduce the amendment for the director at large position, but without eliminating the freshman representative to the BoD.

Zhang remarked that the ASCIT bureaucracy needs streamlining because, he believes, it is highly inefficient. To help him keep track of the committee members, he would select "a few presidential interns to assist me in the task."

Honor Code

Both vice presidential candidates felt that the Honor Code is still strongly followed among students, but all wish to foster a bet-

ter-informed community.

Loram noted, "While the issues that come up with regard to the Honor Code are always in flux, I think that we stand by the original Honor Code."

Choi expressed more concern about misconceptions about the BoC among students. She would like to give students an opportunity to voice their questions in a setting akin to the Student Faculty Conference. Additionally, Choi said that the faculty, staff, graduate students and security at Caltech need to be better educated about the Honor Code.

The Big Picture

Almost universally, the candidates for president and vice president are devoted to righting wrongs and improving student life. Zhou said that she has a large interest in the well-being of the undergraduates.

Wang pointed inwards to her own dedication. "Caltech and my fellow Techers just mean so much to me that I want to make things better here," she said. "And moreover, I feel like I can because it's such a small cam-

pus and administrators are willing to take students seriously."

Fletcher, after serving two years as a UCC, believes he has become familiar with challenges facing Caltech students and hopes to help student voices be heard. "What this campus needs is communication and it needs people who aren't afraid to hound the administration or to stand up and speak on the Olive Walk," he said.

Zhang believes that his multilingual appeal would unify voters. "I intend to be the People's President who can hear your voice in French, English or Mandarin," claimed Zhang.

But whatever the outcome of the upcoming elections, the ASCIT president and vice president will have their jobs cut out for them.

"Unlike problem sets, which are done when you hand them in, student government is a constant barrage of issues that never stop coming," said Jou. "Being ASCIT president is a thankless job and the new president will need to have a strong sense of duty and a deep-held love of Caltech and the undergraduate student body... The only thing that got me through it was a belief that the Caltech way of life was something worth fighting for."

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

	TOM FLETCHER	JIALAN WANG	JANET ZHOU	LIBIN ZHANG
What do you hope to accomplish in the time you are in office?	I'd like to accomplish many things: first and foremost, I'd like to improve the quality of life of the student body at Caltech. This should be ASCIT's major responsibility and everything I do will be focused around this goal. Along these lines, I'd like to use ASCIT to help Caltech grow and nurture students leaders and to improve the dialogue between administration, faculty and students.	Academics is the student life issue I would like to focus most on. Although there is already an ARC chair, my conversations with the ARC chair have led me to believe that departments are extremely reluctant to change and to respond to student comments and complaints. I think that making academics a priority among high-level administration, most importantly the new dean, might help.	I hope to increase communication between both the student body and its student representatives and between the student body and Caltech administration.	Currently, ASCIT is a corrupt organisation, paralysed by strife, group think and nepotism. ASCIT BoD meetings degenerate into IHC bashing and BoC bashing. Our officials are not receptive to the needs of the constituency. When was the last time you talked to the ASCIT President and voiced your opinions? I intend to be the People's President (with less gesticulating during speeches) who can hear your voice (in French, English or Mandarin).
Many people feel as though ASCIT needs internal reforms. What reforms do you think ASCIT will need? What do you plan to do about them?	I've spoken about [the BoD's] transparency. That sums up a lot of it. I think people feel that their money goes to ASCIT and they never see it come out. And when ASCIT does do something, it's an event like "Why I Love Caltech" that made the campus a nationwide laughing stock (search <i>google</i> news for Caltech, the media gobbled up the story of a "love-in"). I was embarrassed to be a student at Caltech when that hit. I want to get ASCIT in touch with the students it represents. The IRS fees are ridiculous too: how does a school of a thousand geniuses not manage to pay its taxes? Transparency creates accountability and with accountability, [stuff] gets done.	I think that I mainly just want the BoD to focus more on actual issues than internal BoD affairs. We tend to spend most of our meeting time on rather trivial things and I would like BoD members to spend more of their time serving as advocates for the students. I would run the meetings so that we spent most of our time talking about what we should do about issues students care about and then get the appropriate BoD members to investigate these issues.	We have always agreed that ASCIT needs many reforms, but since it is hard to pass any bylaws, we have been unable to make the reforms that we see necessary. In practice, it is also hard to please everyone. Whatever reforms we would like to make always seem to please some subset, but really upset another. I would like to see ASCIT representatives make an effort to give more feedback to and receive more feedback from the student body in general. We are attempting to do this through the newsgroup system on the donut web site, but this has been slow in taking off. Also I think ASCIT representatives need to be more dedicated toward their job and take more responsibility for when things don't get done. Tackling this is certainly much harder, as it is a sensitive issue and people may get hurt. This is where I'd like more feedback: other students to tell us when we're not doing our job well and be honest about it.	The major reforms needed are campaign finance reform and end of special presidential privileges. Gone shall be the days that the President can commit any crime with impunity or exercise <i>jus primae noctis</i> (right to sleep with a Tech girl on her wedding night). Furthermore, the ASCIT bureaucracy has become highly inefficient and sorely requires streamlining.
	ANITA CHOI	GALEN LORAM		
What do you hope to accomplish in the time you are in office? Why are you running for the position?	After serving as Fleming's BoC Rep for a year, I am still interested in being an active voice on the Board of Control. I would like the chance to address some of the issues and concerns that current students have about the Honor Code and more importantly, about the Board of Control. In order for the Honor Code to work well within our community, I believe that every member of the community must have faith in the system. I truly believe that the honor code is an integral part of life at Caltech and is one of the many things that make our college experience unique. However, I am also aware that many people who first arrive at Caltech are unfamiliar with the concept of an Honor Code and are skeptical as to whether such a system works. A role that interests me as BoC Chair is the one of educating the community about the Honor Code. I look forward to the talk that I would have to give at frosh camp, (and hopefully I can make it slightly more interesting and informative than the one I heard my freshman year!) At the beginning of this year, I had the opportunity to speak about the Honor Code at the International Student Program's Orientation for incoming undergraduate and graduate students. It was a very rewarding experience as I had the chance to hear new perspectives about the system that we currently have in place.	I see the main duty of the vice president as that of the BoC chair. While far from the most popular committee on campus, people's trust and faith in the Board have been on the rise after what was a rather dismal period a couple of years ago. I would thus try to help build people's faith in the BoC, perhaps by having a bit more transparency in the sorts of cases that we deal and other statistical (and thus anonymous) data on the cases the BoC sees. I'd also hope that I might be able to get people to realize that, while an integral part of ASCIT, donuts are not the be all and end all of what our 'student government' does. The primary reason I'm running is that I believe I could do a good job as the Chair of the BoC. Having been on the board as a representative at large has given me some perspective on the duties and responsibilities of the BoC and its chair. I've also had to take the seat as a defendant on an alcohol policy related CRC case, so I think I can probably empathize more with the fears and worries of people called before the BoC.		
Many people feel as though ASCIT needs internal reforms. What reforms do you think ASCIT will need? What do you plan to do about them?	Now that I look back, it is sort of ironic that I am running for the position of ASCIT Vice President. Third term last year, a group of students held a "Drop ASCIT membership party" outside on the Olive Walk. I was very close to dropping my membership that day, as I felt that ASCIT was robbing me of \$60 a year to provide for donuts and movies. However, as I started to learn more about the initiatives of our student government, I began to realize that the BoD spends their Friday afternoons coming up with and arguing about suggestions that often do improve and enrich student life. However, I think the BoD needs to better communicate their efforts and goals to the student body.	I think if anyone really knew what reforms ASCIT needed, that they would have already occurred. I think that the biggest problem right now is that some people feel that ASCIT should move one way (for example, getting it's hands out of what really should be the IHC's business) and others feel that it ought to move the opposite way. Witness of this is shown by the fact that the vast majority of the ASCIT reforms that have been proposed have been shot down by the student body at large. Thus, caught between the two views on what student body should be, we're stuck at the unhappy position of being in the middle of two conflicting factions.		

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Outgoing President: Past Year Reviewed

Jou Recounts a Year of Forward-moving Change

By TED JOU

So this Wednesday, you will elect a new hero to lead you into a bright future—one with a \$3 million endowment, a green lawn outside Beckman Institute and a new best friend named Margo Marshak. My time as ASCIT president will soon come to an end and I thought this might be an appropriate time to recount the past year, which has been quite eventful for Caltech undergraduates.

This story begins on December 12, 2001—the middle of finals week of first term last year. At a time when it seemed as though Caltech had forgotten about its students, the typically apathetic undergraduates defied convention, gathering on the Olive Walk for a rally unlike anything in recent memory. More than 200 students participated, sharing their views by speaking at the open microphone or by writing on banners that were filled three times over. This unexpected and unusual event gave birth to a year unlike anything Caltech has ever seen.

During second term, the Faculty Student Housing Committee organized a series of town hall meetings, visiting each of the student houses to discuss student traditions and housing environments. Continuing the spirit of the December protest, students spoke out strongly defending the traditions of the student houses.

During February, the *ad hoc* Library Task Force released its report in favor of a centralized library for Caltech campus. When many of its recommendations were ignored, students and faculty found another issue to complain about. As second term ended, little progress seemed to have been made.

During finals week, Caltech President David Baltimore invited student leaders to a meeting previewing a consultant's report on Student Affairs administration at Caltech. The report itself, which called for a new full-time professional vice president for Student Affairs, was met with skepticism. However, the opening of the lines of communication provided a glimmer of hope for the future.

As third term began, the administration began feeling increased pressure from many different directions. Prefrosh Weekend loomed on the horizon and many in the Caltech community expressed a fear that the student unrest would negatively impact Caltech's reputation. With hundreds of high school students waiting to descend on campus, the administration finally caved to student demands. In a letter to students on April 5, Dr. Baltimore restored freshman parking, reinstated the policies of giving students free catalogs and mailing home their grades and made guarantees on health insurance and the student house system.

A week after Prefrosh Weekend, at the 2002 Student-Faculty Conference, President Baltimore announced that \$3 million from the Moore Gift would be placed in an endowment for improving the quality of student life.

While these victories were very satisfying, new issues quickly rose up to take their places. At that Stu-

dent-Faculty Conference, a growing concern about student morale was uncovered. A week later, the GSC exposed Caltech's plans to build a wall on Beckman Lawn. The undergraduate student body remained dissatisfied with Residence Life policies regarding alcohol and fire. And still, the issue of health insurance lingered.

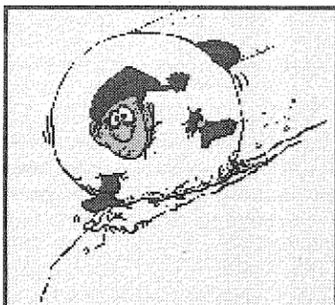
A few dedicated students served on committees over the summer addressing many of these issues, but the school year started with uncertainty still hanging in the air. In November, a long, hard battle ended in triumph. The big news even reached the *Los Angeles Times*—Caltech decided not to build *Vectors* on the Beckman Lawn.

After winter break, ending another hard-fought conflict, it was announced that the student health plan would continue unchanged. It is perhaps fitting that these two events straddled the one-year anniversary of the student protest. If there is any lesson to be learned from the past year, it is that student voices can be heard.

I hope the student body realizes this fact. A little over a year ago, students spoke out and over the past year, the administration has begun to listen. The best thing students can do now is to keep telling Caltech what we want and the student body desperately needs leaders who are willing to speak up.

For those who are thinking about getting involved, I would like to offer some words from the protest that have helped me find my place in student government: "When I came to Tech, I used to hear good things about the administration—that they supported us and our desire to express ourselves and that they understood that this school was a unique environment deserving of a uniquely large amount of student self-government and of respect for our views and needs. Today, I see an unwillingness on the part of the administration to stand up to people who don't understand this—and it is destroying everything that makes this place worthwhile."

Next year, a majority of the student body won't have seen the protest, but as long as students keep getting involved, its ideals will not be forgotten.



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Fe, Fi, Fo, Fum: The 'Powder Keg' Of Hussein, Gulf War Retrospect

By JEAN-PAUL REVEL

This is such a peculiar time, sitting as we are on a powder keg, that we know is going to explode one of these days, maybe today, after the UN inspectors in Iraq report on the progress or lack thereof in finding evidence that Saddam Hussein has been working on forbidden weapons.

Perhaps the timetable will slip, depending on the kind of noises the French, Germans and Russians and other assorted countries, make in the background. They have already clearly expressed their opposition to a war entered into on the basis of the skimpy evidence that has been made available until now. But we have declared that, with them or without them we'll go ahead. Apparently the only ones squarely with us are the British.

Like Damocles at King Dionysus' banquet, partaking of the kingly feast with a sword suspended over his head by a single hair, we carry on "normally," as if there were no more serious concerns than the Super Bowl. In last Wednesday's *L.A. Times*, columnist Valli Herman-Cohen gives all kinds of recipes to gross out on, while watching the game. Apparently the ordinary, puny tortilla chip nachos and the presently standard scrawny buffalo wings are out. The nation's sport buffs can look forward to nachos made with tortilla wedges, each chip a serving in itself, piled high with beans, chicken, cheese, scoops of salsa, "guac" and sour cream... other dishes to size...

But it is easy for me to pooh pooh what I see as a trivial event in our National life. I have no interest in the Super Bowl; for the sake of this column I looked at the Sports page of the paper and discovered that the match would be between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Oakland Raiders; did I get that right? There is also something about San Diego, but I think that's where the game will take place. If the players consumed any of the dishes so lovingly described in section F, it is hard to believe that they would be in any shape to play.

Okay, skip the Super Bowl. The real news are about the winners of

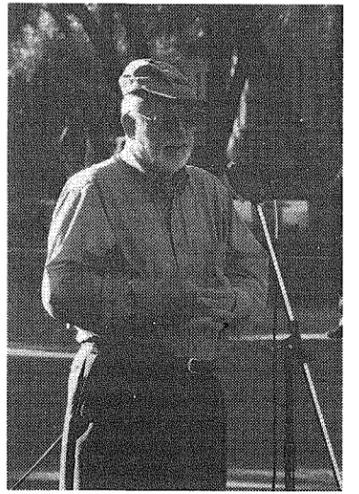
the Golden Globe Awards... great to see a movie about Virginia Wolfe and the influence of her writing on the lives of others beat out less intellectual topics. But let's face it: however serious the subject of a movie or a show, it amounts "only" to entertainment... and so the world goes on about its ordinary business—we sit in the dentist's chair, shop for dinner, fill the car with gas, buy lottery tickets, whatever—and there is this ominous ticking in the background while we just go on and on.

I never really understood why, during the first Gulf War, we stopped short of toppling Saddam Hussein while we were at it. Presumably we were trying to avoid offending other Arab states... yeah, but here we are again offending in a big way. At least the first time around there was a feeling that we were defending Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from, respectively, actual and feared invasion.

"It would seem a dangerously inappropriate way to conduct the country's foreign affairs."

This time it is not clear what suddenly changed to make it imperative for us to topple him now. Hey, he is no paragon of virtue, democracy or other attributes that we profess to hold dear. He did use poison gas, etc. on his own and other people. He has done all he could to acquire weapons of mass destruction. But many of these things had been done or were being worked on at the time of the first Mr. Bush's war. What happened to make Saddam a target now, while we still have unfinished business with bin Laden, the Taliban and Al Qaeda? Don't we have enough left to do in Afghanistan? We have a second chance there, but somehow it does not look as though we are doing what I imagine our self-interest would dictate: rebuilding the country as we did Europe after WW2.

It almost looks as though we got



caught by rhetoric. I was floored when I read that the infelicitous turn of phrase "axis of evil" was not a carefully calculated statement, thoughtfully discussed by high level advisors, thoroughly gutted by members of the cabinet and purposefully inserted into the President's last year State of the Union speech.

No, it was put there by a speech writer, Mr. Frum, a Canadian then employed at the White House. Frum has left the job and has since written a book about his days in Washington and the perspectives that he gained on the presidency. As the House of Windsor has been discovering... beware of the butler. In his book he relates that he was asked to prepare some material "that would provide a justification for a war," and what he hit upon was the expression "axis of hatred." In the president's speech that had been changed to "axis of evil," suggesting that someone at least went over the speech before it was used.

Although Iraq was the only point on the axis at first, Iran was added, presumably to make the axis something else than dimensionless. Including North Korea, it has been surmised, made the axis parallel to the Tripartite Axis of the WW2. On the face of it, it would seem a dangerously inappropriate way to conduct the country's foreign affairs. It is said that there are reasons, good reasons for a war, but all we have heard is the repeated litany of hav-

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JOB OPPORTUNITY!

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A12047-SMPA

Question of the Week

What, to you, was most memorable in this past year at Caltech?

Y-News

Upcoming Events:

- ON-CAMPUS TUTORING (1/28, 1/30, Winnett 4-6 p.m.): Stop by Winnett and tutor a local middle or high school student. No experience is necessary. Everyone is welcome to come as their schedule allows. (Contact y-veep@ugcs if you'd like to join the tutor mailing list.)

Factoid: In honor of Martin Luther King Jr, there is an open writing contest for \$250. Any genre is welcome. The theme is "The Audacity to Believe." Entries are due Friday, February 14. Check out the Caltech Y Web site, www.caltechy.org, for details.

Y Not Join Us? Come to an ExComm meeting! All meetings are open to students, staff and faculty - every Monday at noon in the Caltech Y.

The Y (x6163) is located on the first floor of the Student Services Building, south of the Holliston parking structure. If you are interested in a Y activity or have questions, please stop by or send an e-mail to the Vice President (y-veep@ugcs)



ASCIT Election Schedule:
 Wednesday, January 29: Elections for ASCIT President and Vice-President
 Friday, January 31: Bylaw Amendment Election
 (<http://donut.caltech.edu/about/news/bylaws/>)

Caltech Library System Presents: The following sessions are approximately one hour of formal instruction in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room (Room 328). Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is preferred.
 Thursday, January 30, 2 PM: "Physical Property Data Searching"
 Thursday, February 6, 2 PM: "Quick Review of HUMSS Information Resources"
 You may register for these and other upcoming classes at library.caltech.edu/learning. For further information, please contact Kathleen McGregor at x6713 or kathleen@library.caltech.edu.

Caltech Opera Club Meeting.

BoD Plots Bylaw Deja Vu

By JOSEPH JEWELL

Present: BoD: Ted, Vikram, Joe, Marcus, Basit, Jialan, Neda Andrea. Absent: Kim. Guests: Jon Dama, Gunnar Ristroph, Natalia Deligne, Elin Boyle (Alumni Fund). Meeting called to order at 4:18 p.m.
 Guests: Jon comes to pick up a form for cash reimbursement, which Ted gives him. Gunnar and Natalia are both here to discuss the failed bylaw amendments and proposed reworked versions. Elin Boyle is here to talk about the Alumni Fund. She has been visiting all of the houses and various student organizations to raise awareness of the Alumni Fund and "interact with students before they graduate and move far away."
 General Meeting: Four ASCIT Bylaw amendments were voted upon this week, requiring a 2/3 majority vote of the student body to pass. The turnout was 333 people, quite high for a Bylaw vote. An amendment creating a Director at Large position to oversee committee appointments failed, garnering 54% of the vote. An amendment renaming the Upperclass Director at Large position the "Publications Director" failed with 57%. An amendment to formally recognize

DILBERT® by Scott Adams

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Wed., Jan. 29. 12 - 1 p.m.. Chris Brennen Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Center for Student Services. Topic: Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. Please join us for an hour of fun as we discover Rossini and his sparkling comic masterpiece. Please bring your lunch and friends. If you have any questions about the Caltech Opera Club or this particular event, please e-mail Angela Wood at awood@caltech.edu.

The Literature Faculty is pleased to announce the Annual **Hallett Smith Competition** honoring the finest essay devoted to Shakespeare. Only full-time, officially registered undergraduates are eligible to enter the competition. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced and should not exceed 4,000 words. The essay may be one prepared for a humanities 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 17, 2003. This year's prize will be approximately \$300, though the judging committee may divide the award in case of more than one outstanding submission. For more information, contact Prof. La Belle, x3605 or Barbara Estrada, x3609.

Mid-Term Salsa/Latin Dance Party-Join us for a hot night of salsa and Latin music!! Plenty of refreshments. Free as always! Beginners are es-

pecially welcome. Sat, Feb 8, Dabney Lounge, 9:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. **Beginners' salsa lesson** from 8:40 - nine p.m. **Upcoming Ballroom Dance Class Info:** - Intermediate/advanced salsa, taught by professional instructor Jorge Geronimo. Five Mondays, Feb 10 - March 10, Winnett Lounge 7:30-9 pm, followed by practice 9-9:30. Cost: \$25 for all 5 weeks for Caltech students or \$6 per class. For nonstudents: \$35 for the series or \$8 per class.

The Caltech Dance Troupe will have two **dance classes** for the winter term. All classes meet in the Braun multipurpose room. **Intermediate Jazz;** Instructor: Collette Sibal; Tuesdays, 9:30-11 PM; Trial class fee: \$5 Caltech students full term fee: \$20 Non-Caltech students full term fee: \$30. **Beginning/Intermediate Ballet;** Saturdays, 1-2:30 PM. FREE! The first hour will be a beginning/intermediate barre while the last half hour will be an intermediate floor exercise.

World News: Protein Research, War Plan

By SAM HSIUNG

Denver Plane Crash Kills Four

Two small planes collided last Friday killing all four on board both planes. One plane crashed into a house in northwest Denver. It is reported that no one was at home at the time of the crash. There were minor injuries from a later explosion on the ground; four people, including a firefighter, were treated and later released at the hospital. It is not clear how the two planes managed to crash.

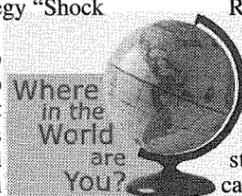
To 'Shock and Awe' Iraq

Last Friday, the Pentagon revealed its plans to launch a total of 800 cruise missiles at Iraq over a short two day period at the outset of any war. This figure is greater than the number of cruise missiles that were launched over the whole of the Gulf War, which lasted 40 days. One pentagon official explained that the intent was for both psychological and physical destruction. He coins the strategy "Shock and Awe."
 The main goal is to stoke Iraq's army into quitting early and not fighting. The targets have thus been switched from the bulk of Iraqi

army divisions to the leadership of Iraq's army during the early days of a possible war. Some in the Bush administration have expressed doubts about such a plan, but many have confirmed that the concept would be the basis of any war with Iraq.

Cancer-killing Protein Found

Researchers from Washington University School of Medicine have discovered that the protein CUGBP2 regulates the production of Cox-2, a key enzyme involved in generating blood vessels which are a source for the growth of cancer cells. When researchers attached the protein to the mRNA for Cox-2 in human cancer cells, the cancer cells were unable to produce Cox-2 and they died. In effect, the protein is thought to trigger a self-destruct sequence for cancer cells. There is still work to be done to see if the effect on human cancer cells can also be duplicated for tumors.
 Researchers say that human testing could be possible within a few years. Preliminary tests have shown the protein capable of destroying up to 70% of cancer cells.



Yao Ming to Shaq: "Nigga" Please'

Basketball Aficionado Zhang Reports on NBA Race Relations

By LIBIN ZHANG

Author's warning: this article might not be suitable for readers under 21 years of age.

The Houston Rocket's Yao Ming said he was joking, not being racist, when he used a mock Ebonics accent while talking about Los Angeles Lakers's Shaquille O'Neal.

Several black civil rights leaders complained that Yao Ming made several derogatory comments about Shaq, with the Chinese rookie saying, "Tell Shaq, 'nigga gotz some fried chicken bling bling.'" The January 17 remarks were made before the two basketball stars squared off against each other in the second most watched NBA regular-season game on cable.

"Yo buss dis. I said it jokinly, so dis homeywuz jus tryin to stir somethin up dat's not dere. He's jus somebody who ain't has a sense uh humor, I'm down wit dat I do. Da shit be wack. I ain't gotta has a response to [the charges of racism] because de folk who noed me noed I'z not Sheeit! Nigga please," said

Yao Ming.

He acknowledged that his attempts at humor don't always work.

"Over muh years in da NBA, I know fo a fact dat most of ya guys is goin ta write what ya want ta write and it's our job ta either defend it or just let it go. Slap ma fro. At times I try ta be a comedian—aww yea foo," he said, before switching to his normal English. "Sometimes I make a good joke and

sometimes it's a bad joke."

"That's just the ups and downs of trying to be a comedian."

Lakers coach Phil Jackson was certain Yao Ming was just kidding.

"It's an unfortunate situation. I'm sure that Yao had no meaning like that behind it. I'm sure he was just doing something that was fun-loving or something he thought was humorous," Jackson said.

When criticized for using the "N-



Courtesy of L. Zhang

Libin Zhang '05 has obtained exclusive photos of Shaq and Yao Ming.

Despite Criticism, Exit Polls Keep Election Validity Under Scrutiny

Those too Quick to Vilify VNS Overlook its Polls' Virtue

By MATTHEW WALKER

Everybody remembers the 2000 presidential election fiasco. Exit polls projected a Gore victory in Florida, which with 25 electoral votes would have won him the presidency. Unfortunately for Gore, tallied votes showed that he had lost by a small margin. Blame for the mishap fell primarily on the confusing butterfly ballot and the inconsistent counting standards used to tally ballots.

The credibility of exit polls, however, took a damaging hit. A major exit poll organization, the Voter News Service, undertook a deep overhaul of their system to prevent future mishaps. By election night 2002, however, VNS had not satisfactorily completed the update to its system, so it announced that it would not be providing exit poll data.

News agencies largely announced that this would hinder their election coverage, but questions were raised about the necessity of exit polls. In the past, exit polls had never been necessary. An obvious lack of technology prevented their implementation and the delayed delivery of results had never been an issue. The contemporary reliance on exit polls only caused confusion and mis-

takes. Suggestions were made to scrap the whole exit poll system as inaccurate and troublesome.

Critics of the system overlook one detail: without the exit poll system in place, the discrepancy with the Florida ballot may not have been discovered as quickly and the results could have been disastrous. The inconsistency between the number of people who thought they voted for Gore and who actually did

sue, Bush would likely have been in office before the problems with the ballots were discovered. A lawsuit involving the President and his defeated rival would cause severe partisanship throughout Congress and the country for a long time, crippling the president's ability to act, not to mention a loss of credibility abroad.

Imagine another scenario. A vote for president is administered by the president and his staff. The president is running for reelection against a strong candidate and both campaign hard. The election seems to be close, but the president ends up winning. Unfortunately, the staff rigged the counting system by "losing" ballots for the opposition. The outcome seems plausible, but an exit poll would have revealed that two thirds of voters had voted for the opposition candidate.

In places where voting is not conducted by neutral or bipartisan groups; the possibility for tampering is much higher. An exit poll could provide a necessary balance against such cheating. In places where the sense of fairness of the voting committee is questionable, this system could help provide a liability to increase the evenhandedness of the vote.

"Without the exit poll system, the discrepancy with the ballot may not have been discovered."

revealed the problem with the system very quickly. Imagine the consequences of the situation if the inconsistency hadn't been discovered until after Bush was in office.

Without exit polls, Bush would have won the number of votes in Florida without confusion, though the close numbers would inevitably induce a Gore campaign member to look into the ballots. But since the exit poll fiasco wouldn't have heightened the visibility of the is-

word," Yao Ming said he learned it after watching the film "Rush Hour" and reading the novels *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. If the word is objectionable, any attempt to censor him would require censoring all newspaper articles written about his remarks as well as all those works.

After making the remarks, Yao Ming's team, the Houston Rockets defeated three-time defending NBA champion the Lakers, 108-104 in overtime. However, Shaq performed better than Yao Ming; Yao had 10 points, 10 rebounds and six blocked shots, while O'Neal finished with 31 points, 13 rebounds and four assists.

In other news, a few days before Yao's remarks, a columnist for *AsianWeek* complained in his newspaper that O'Neal made several derogatory comments about Yao, with Shaq saying, "Tell Yao Ming, 'ching-chong-yang-wah-ah-soh.'" Yao Ming shrugged and replied then, "There are a lot of difficulties in two different cultures understanding each other. Especially two very large countries. The world is getting smaller and I think it's important to have a greater understanding of other cultures. I believe Shaquille O'Neal was joking but I think that a lot of Asian people don't understand that kind of joke."

BUSH A 'KID THROWING A TANTRUM'?

Dean Seeks Basis Of 'Bully' Bush Iraq Policy

Continued from Page 3, Column 5

ing murdered his own people... it is sad to witness our president, threatening like a bully or stamping his foot like a kid throwing a tantrum: "I am sick and tired..." without any more definite justification. Even North Korea bootlegging a nuclear weapons program, does not justify a preemptive war to prevent Saddam to do the same...

Still here we are, waiting for a war which hopefully will not materialize, partaking of a banquet with a sword hanging over us by a thread. If no one among all the President's men and women has any idea how to prevent the sword from falling, to prevent a war from taking place, may I suggest that they hire another speech writer and ask him "to provide a justification for peace?"

A bientot

Letter: Zionism Flyer Unfair to Leader King

Posters Disrespect MLK

Dear editors,

I am deeply disturbed by a flyer entitled "Martin Luther King on Zionism" that is posted outside Chandler Dining Hall. Seemingly innocently, the flyer quotes a speech by King in the early 1960's comparing the plight of the persecuted Jewish people to the struggle of African Americans.

In the speech, King expresses his support for Zionism, which he defines as the right of the Jewish people to have their own state. The flyer's only editorial commentary is to underline King's phrase "the right to occupy their homeland."

When they were spoken, King's eloquent words expressed peaceful solidarity with the Jewish people at a time when many other black leaders were anti-Semitic. However, to selectively quote those words in the context of the current Middle East conflict is highly inappropriate. The meaning of certain words has

changed in the last forty years: the term "Zionism" now almost universally refers to militant support for Israel and the phrase "the right to occupy their homeland" is now the prevalent justification for the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

The flyer, therefore, takes Dr. King's words out of their historical context and applies them to a political situation completely different from the one he was addressing. To imply that he would have supported Israeli violence against Palestinians is severely disrespectful to Dr. King's legacy. Furthermore, whoever posted this notice did not even have the courage to state his position explicitly or to attribute the flyer to any group or individual. Was whoever wrote this so ashamed of his own claim that he decided to anonymously insinuate it instead of saying it outright? I call on the author of this piece to stand up and explain his actions.

Dario Amodei '05

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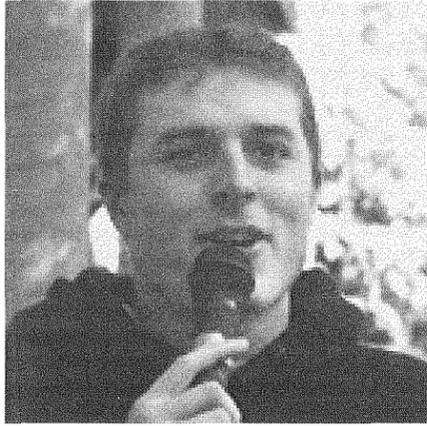
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STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE: PRESIDENT

TOM FLETCHER

ASCIT needs leaders who are devoted to communication. Many of the students' problems over the past years have been due to shamefully poor communication between the students, ASCIT and the administration. I've prided myself on my ability to communicate effectively and I think that comes across when you saw me kicking off the Olive Walk Sit-In last year, working as a UCC or "acting" in Challenges and Choices at Frosh Camp. Hopefully, the accompanying article on the candidates will go into some detail on what we all stand for, but I'll give the summarized version here.

I believe ASCIT should be transparent and effective. I want to make the Tech as good a newspaper as can be found at other colleges of our prestige. I want everyone in ASCIT to be able to "poll" on the issues we discuss, to try and make ASCIT more of a true democracy that just a closed-doors power clique. I want the administration to hear our voice, by



means of meetings and dialogue when they're willing, by sitting in front of their door when they're not. ASCIT should be a force for improving the quality of life of Caltech's students and that's what I would have it do. Thanks and don't forget to vote!

JIALAN WANG

The first problem I would like to tackle as ASCIT President is the current disconnect between ASCIT officers and the students that they represent. From my experience as ASCIT Social Director this past year, I feel that the BoD is often much too involved in its own internal issues and does not focus enough on the real concerns of students. However, the current BoD has made progress in this department and if elected ASCIT President I would continue to increase interaction between the BoD and the student body through house visits, forums and other events. As I have since I was a freshman here, I would continue to write articles in the Tech to let students know what the BoD is talking about each week and to give students as much information as the ASCIT officers have about campus issues. My second goal is to increase interaction between students and the rest of the Caltech community in all forms. I am already working on two alumni-student events scheduled for the next two terms and with future events I hope to engage the whole community in discussing and solving the problems that plague our student body. The most important of these issues that I would like to concentrate on as ASCIT President is aca-



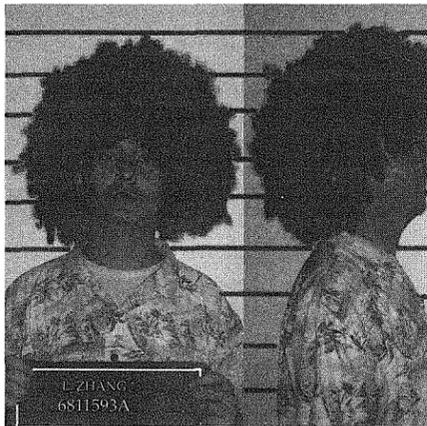
demics. If elected I plan to put a lot of pressure on the faculty and administration to make real changes to fix classes that are broken, to fix the advising system, to rethink the way Caltech students are educated. So these are my goals and I hope that my service to the student body as ASCIT Social Director (planning such events as the ASCIT Formal at the Four Seasons and What I Love About Caltech) and a member of many campus organizations and committees has proven me honest, responsible and experienced enough to be worthy of your votes.

LIBIN ZHANG

Brothers and sisters, the current ASCIT is a corrupt and decadent organization, paralyzed by strife, self-service, group think and nepotism. ASCIT BoD meetings have degenerated into IHC bashing and BoC bashing. Our officials, some of whom are desperately trying to remain in power, are no longer receptive to the needs of the constituency; When was the last time you talked to the ASCIT President and voiced your opinions? I will be the new People's President (with less gesticulating during speeches) who can hear your voice (in French, English or Mandarin).

I am not oblivious to the crises facing Caltech. Once I am elected President, I would like the people to grant me Emergency War Powers so I can declare war on Saddam. We need to refocus our efforts, increase the ASCIT budget and fight the Axis of Evil. Remember, if I'm not elected, then the terrorists have won.

Let me start over. Do you feel dissatisfied with your life at Caltech? Do you feel alien-



ated or obscure in this cold cruel world? Are you discontent with the status quo? Do you think Caltech should buy a Krispy Kreme franchise for \$1 million? If you do, you are not alone. With the support of you, i.e., the people, los descamisados, the silent masses, we can make our wishes come true and fight against The Man. The Man who [rest of statement censored due to inappropriate content].

JANET ZHOU

Someone once said, "Love and respect do not automatically accompany a position of leadership. They must be earned." How true it is! Having served as ASCIT treasurer this past year, I have a lot of experience with how the BoD works and just as importantly, how it does not work. I have proven to be responsible, open minded, encouraging, stimulating and to have a genuine concern for the welfare of undergraduates over the past year. If elected, I will continue to work hard for you and will do whatever I can to keep your support.



STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE: VICE PRESIDENT

GALEN LORAM

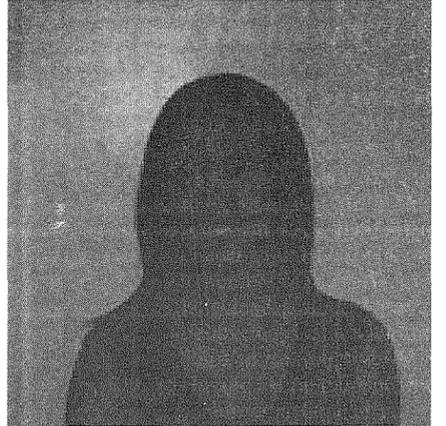
The ASCIT Vice-President is perhaps the most 'shadowy' of those on the ASCIT BoD. However, perhaps in the only place in the world where this is true, the ASCIT Veep does more than just smile and nod at what the president says--their main responsibility is chairing the Board of Control. And while, as a member of the BoD, I would do my best to help lead a student government that many believe has lost its legitimacy, the main reason I'm running for ASCIT VP is the BoC. Having sat on the BoC for a year as a representative at large, I've grown to know, appreciate and respect what it is. We've all seen and heard about the administration encroaching on the freedoms that we have as students, but we still have something that would be considered outlandish at most schools--a student run self-discipline body that is incredibly rarely overruled. While the board has not always been the most popular student committee on campus, from what I've seen and heard people's faith and trust in our judgment and actions has grown over the past couple of years. Perhaps the most rewarding moment that I've had since sitting on the board was when, a week or two after a case was over,



one of the defendants (who had been convicted) came up and told me they were surprised by how reasonable and fair we had been. As chair and ASCIT VP, I would do my best to continue to foster the growth of this trust. But I believe my strongest qualification is somewhat of a mixed blessing. Having recently been CRCed for violating the alcohol policy, I believe I can empathize more with defendants and that my lack of a holier-than-thou attitude could encourage them to feel more comfortable speaking the truth.

ANITA CHOI

I realize it is unusual to have a statement written by someone other than the candidate; but I think it is appropriate to be "nominating" someone for the position of Board of Control Chair because of the integrity that the position demands. I believe that Anita has proven to have this integrity in both her academic and extracurricular life. She has always been responsible and thorough in the tasks she undertakes (to list a few: contents editor for the CURJ, events coordinator for new international students, advertisement manager for the *little t* and of course, Fleming BoC Representative). I have seen very few people that can top her organizational skills or her ability of utilizing these skills so well as to always stay on task. Furthermore, Anita's rational thinking and friendly attitude will be crucial assets to the BoC (as well as on the Board of Directors, since she will be Vice President of ASCIT). I haven't known Anita to jump to conclusions or to pass quick judgment on people or situations. I know I can trust her to make rational and dependable decisions. As for her friendliness, I think many people can attest to the fact that she has broken House barriers that exist, maintaining friendships in many of the Houses. I think this is important is seeing that she will be a successful mediator in the BoC as well

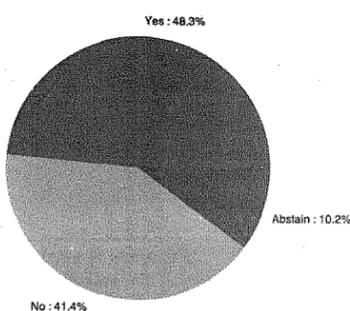


as a strong voice of the ASCIT BoD. The position of BoC Chair is an important one. I want to know that the position is occupied by someone who is passionate and optimistic about their job (because I know it will be a tough one sometimes). I want to know that the BoC Chair will not only be able to better represent the students, but also be an asset on both the BoC and ASCIT. Lastly, I think that the BoC Chair needs to be someone who has proven to be trustworthy, rational and a wonderful leader. I see all these qualities in Anita; and I hope that you will too!

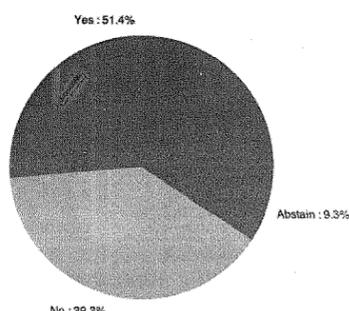
Neda Afsarmanesh

Bylaws: Two Pass, Two Fail

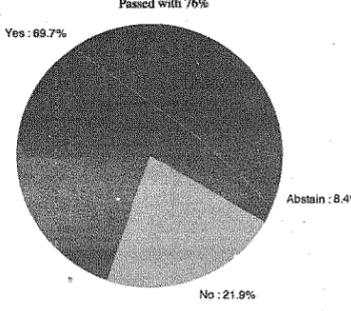
Director at Large Amendment
Failed with 54%



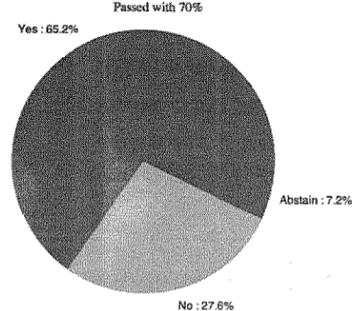
Director of Publications Amendment
Failed with 57%

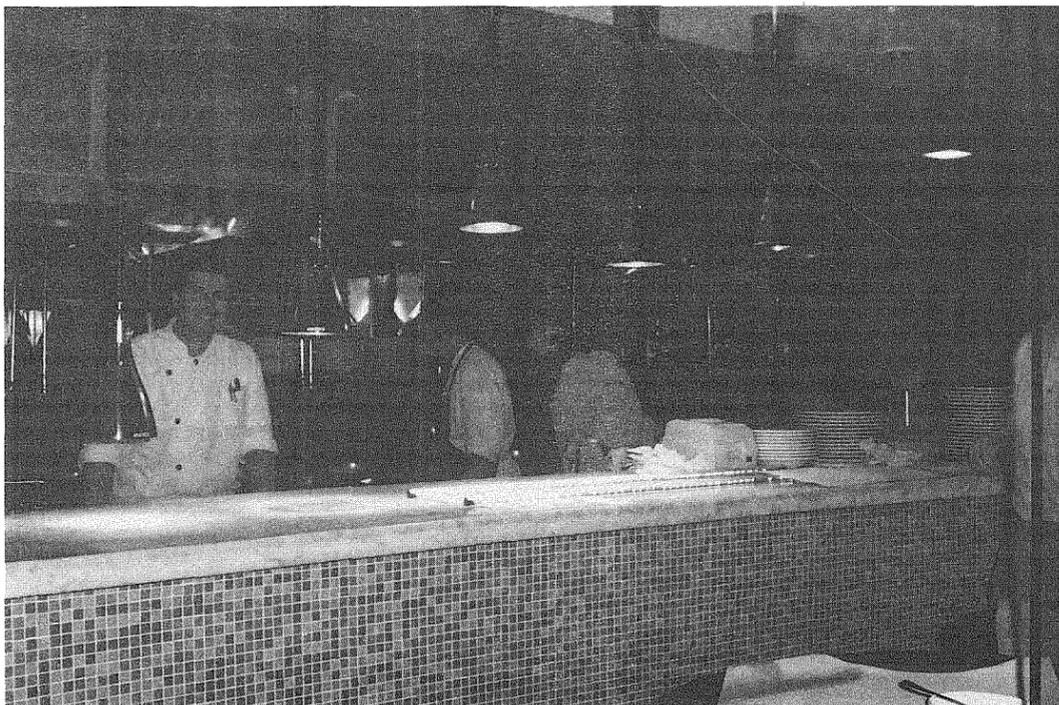


Donut Web Site and Totem Amendment
Passed with 76%



ASCIT Document Publication Amendment
Passed with 70%





T. Ma/The California Tech

Chefs at the trendy Cafe Med Bar and Grill work busily behind the counter to prepare meals for the large Friday crowd.

'Carnaval,' Girls, Fun on Parade In Pasadena at Cafe Med's Rio Night

By TAMMY MA

Walking into Cafe Med, you are met with a warm, open restaurant, elegantly decorated, yet classic and comfortable. The contemporary curves and art on the walls make for a trendy yet laid-back attitude.

On this Friday night, the restaurant was quite crowded, with every table filled and a large group gathered around the bar—a well stocked bar, I might add. There was live music, jazzy and upbeat.

The menu featured standard Italian fare—not what we had expected, given the name "Club Med." Nevertheless, there were very reasonable prices, although portions tended to be on the smaller side.

"The atmosphere is very good. However, I judge my meal by my bread [which they serve first] and it is not good. Bread sets off the meal. Hopefully the rest of the meal will be better... However, this restaurant has lots of dynamics with lots of artistic people. That alone may camouflage the lack of integrity in the kitchen because it's very artsy... There's lots of potential," commented Cafe Med patron Jan Genovese, a Pasadena resident.

The Pollo Arosto I happened to order as a main dish was prepared well, tender and juicy and very fragrant. Courses seemed to be served beautifully, the chefs certainly took the time to ensure the food was arranged in nice designs.

However, the dining experience was hindered by the fact that the restaurant was too noisy and busy.

In the Spotlight

It was difficult to hear my dinner company, although he sat straight across from me and throughout dinner, waiters, patrons and band members were constantly walking back and forth behind and around us.

People were even moving band and speaker equipment between the tables!

This Friday night was particularly special because it was the grand opening of "Rio at Cafe Med in Paseo Colorado," in which the "Carnaval In Rio Comes to Pasadena." Starting around eight p.m. there was live Brazilian music by Badaue, followed by an Early Bossanova Dinner Show. The party really started about 10:30 p.m., when a band was brought out that played samba and Brazilian dance and party beats.

Added Gustavo Olm '06, who attended the festivities, "...and there were four hot Brazilian girls in full-fledged samba gear and they started *rebolando*—Portuguese for 'shakin' it.' They even invited some people onto the dance floor. Highly exciting! The girls' show lasted only some ten minutes but then the dance floor opened and the band continued playing authentic Brazilian music till about midnight. [There were] lots of people going nuts—especially some really hot Brazilian chicks. After midnight a DJ started playing some Latin dance stuff and... the party continued on."

Continued Gustavo, "I had the best time I've had in a long time. No kidding: this [stuff's] terrific. [It was] definitely a time to wind back and have more fun than you could have at Tech in four years com-

bined. Every outgoing Techer should go. Are there any? Whatever, just go."

The event also featured four hostesses: Julia Sackis, current Miss Brazil L.A.; Ana Ligia, Miss Brazil U.S.A.; Jacqueline Caldas, Former Miss Brazil L.A.; Daniela Goulart, current Miss San Diego and current Miss Media Brazil.

"Rio at Cafe Med" will continue every Friday night. Admission is free, although reservations are recommended.

Cafe Med Bar and Grill is located at 260 E. Colorado Blvd #227, upstairs in the Paseo Colorado complex, and is open Sunday through Thursday 11:30 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and Friday through Saturday 11:30 a.m. till 11:30 p.m. To attend the "Carnaval," reservations are recommended.

Bowen Forum Turns MLK Light to 'Audacious Women'

By LEA HILDEBRANDT

Martin Luther King, Jr. was undoubtedly a very important person in the civil rights movement. But he was not alone. Many other people and other groups of people worked together to allow the movement to succeed to the degree that it did.

Last Tuesday, Angela Bowen held a lecture for the Caltech community entitled: "Audacious Women in Civil Rights: The Ongoing Saga" at the Hall of Associates in the Athenaeum from noon to one p.m.

"Since Bowen's research focuses on the intersections of race, gender and sexuality, we thought she'd be a good speaker on the topic," said Candace Rypisi, director of the Women's Center. Thus, this lecture at the movement from a different angle.

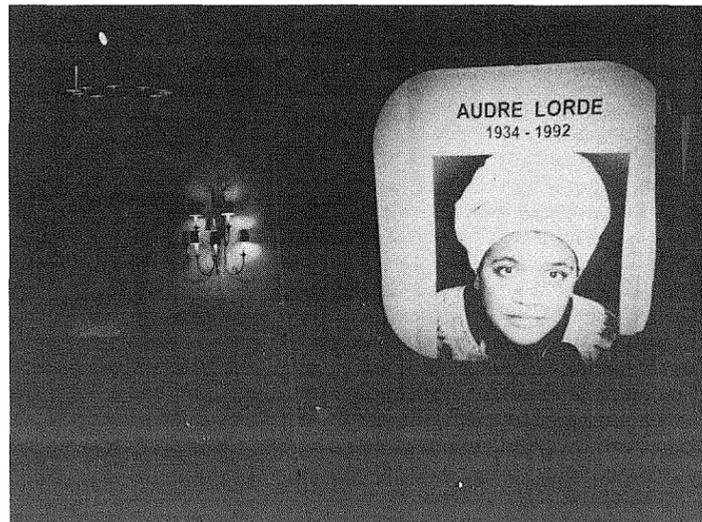
In her lecture, she focused on three very active and influential women of the civil rights movement.

The first woman she discussed was Ella Baker, who became a visible active participant in the movement through the Montgomery bus boycott. In fact, as Bowen remarked, "the women really sparked the Montgomery bus boycott—Martin Luther King, Jr. was recruited later." Baker was also vital in the formation of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

While working for the SCLC, Baker stayed in close contact with King. Unfortunately, the two frequently clashed about the organization and mission of the SCLC. King was a leader. He felt a social movement could be effective only if it had good leaders guiding everyone else along the way. Baker, on the other hand, thought that the "SCLC should function as a group-centered leadership rather than a leadership-centered group."

When the time came to find a director of the SCLC, Baker was not a candidate, even though she had

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D. Korta/The California Tech

The stories of three influential women of the civil rights movement are told during Tuesday's "Audacious Women in Civil Rights: The Ongoing Saga," talk.

SQL Worm Slows Internet to Crawl

By BILLY YOUNG

Around nine p.m. last Friday night, many students panicked as they noticed the Internet grind to halt. Some Web pages loaded painfully slow; others were unreachable.

Yet Information Technology Services was not to blame for this problem, since the computer network was up and running. The problem was instead the result of a computer worm that flooded the global Internet with massive amounts of traffic.

A worm uses bugs and vulnerabilities in other software to spread itself, similar to a virus except that a virus requires a person to open some file. This recent worm used a bug in Microsoft's MySQL database software to spread itself to other MySQL servers and to transmit small useless packets of information. More and more servers began transmitting these packets resulting in excessive traffic over Internet connections.

One measure of the damage was that five of the 13 so-called "root DNS servers" were down. These servers are responsible for the association of Web site names to their computer addresses. Additionally, many of the backbone providers that handle information on the largest connection of the Internet were reporting greater than 30% loss of information funneled through their connections due to the resources consumed by the worm.

The worst damage was in South Korea, where the entire country's Internet had to be shut down. Luck-

ily, the information being transmitted by the worm was easily identified as being sent through a specific Internet "port"—which could be just as easily blocked. By Saturday morning, major servers were blocking this port, stopping the worm and returning the Internet to normal.

This attack raises an important question about responsibility. Although whoever created the worm is directly responsible for the damage, the problem could have been easily reduced in magnitude, if not prevented.

The vulnerability exploited by the worm has been known for some time, with a patch correcting this bug available since last July. Many of the other recent worms and viruses, such as Nimda and Code Red, used known vulnerabilities in software that were correctable with available patches. Most of the other worms infected home computers belonging to people who probably do not understand the importance of such patches. But this recent worm attacked MySQL, a database program used almost exclusively by businesses, which would employ knowledgeable computer administrators to maintain the databases. So why have these administrators paid to maintain and update the databases not applied the patches?

The blame here could be shifted to Microsoft, who originally released the vulnerable software. Microsoft could have easily missed a bug when releasing the software due to the volume of computer code involved. Mistakes like this are corrected by releasing patches as soon as vulnerabilities are discovered.

Microsoft, however, often uses such patches to change the licensing agreement associated with the software. By applying the patch, the business using the software may have to agree to new terms of use, which may possibly conflict with company policy.

For example, a recent set of security patches for Windows XP included a new clause in the agreement allowing Microsoft to "provide security related updates to the operating system components that will be automatically downloaded onto your computer." This clause violates a law applying to medical institutes, preventing any doctor or hospital from applying this patch. Many system administrators also fear that these patches may damage the databases, resulting in huge costs and loss of information. Microsoft's policies and questionable reliability drive system administrators to avoid patching software.

In the end, there are many who could be blamed for the damage resulting from such worms. As the Internet grows, such vulnerabilities are bound to increase the responsibility of those on the Internet to protect their systems, such as by patching vulnerable software.

As seen in November of 1988 when the "Great Worm" brought down the entire Internet, the exploitation of a simple vulnerability can take the stuffing out of the World Wide Web. The Internet has changed greatly since then, but is still at great risk to simple worms with more severe consequences as users become more dependent on connectivity.



L. Stein/The California Tech

Caltech staffers turn to board games Friday night after the "Sapphire" worm slowed their notebooks' Internet connections to a crawl.

Bowen Points to Lord, Baker, Hamer In Women-themed Civil Rights Talk

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organized the council. When asked how she felt about this exclusion, she said that she knew from the beginning that she would never be chosen director of the SCLC because she was a woman. But, Baker did not let this thwart her efforts and she continued to work for the council and, especially, for the cause in which she so fervently believed.

Next, Bowen spoke about Audre Lord. Lord was a very progressive woman who impressed people with her openness, especially about her lesbianism. She died of cancer in her 50s.

Most capturing about the lecture on this woman was a video clip which showed Lord speaking at a conference in Boston in 1990, just as the United States was sliding into the Gulf War. At this conference, Lord pleaded with her audience to speak out against the war. As an African-American woman from the Caribbean, she had often experienced being ignored. She spoke especially to "the rest of us" when she said "you have a piece of their ears—use it."

One of the major points that Lord tried to teach people was that unity does not mean unanimity: "We do not have to become each other in order to work together," she said. In other words, she explained, it does not matter if we are all different, as long as we all believe in the same cause that we are working for. Two of her mottos for her life were "Find your work and use it" and "If my work is useful, it will be used." Well, in the eyes of most, it certainly was.

The last woman Bowen discussed was Fannie Lou Hamer. In contrast to the other two women, Hamer did not have a college education. In fact, she attended school until only the sixth grade. Her home state of Mississippi was one of the most racist states and did not have an acceptable educational system in place for black children. Hamer was the 20th child in her family and spent most of her life working in cotton fields. Clearly, her life was not easy.

A major contribution of Hamer to the movement was her voice. Many times, she would cheer up those around her by singing in a bus or in other public places. Hamer was also quite a pacifist. Her opinion about the people that humiliated and discriminated against her was that "they were sick, America was sick and they needed a doctor."

She viewed herself and other active people of the movement as the doctors. The work of Hamer was especially remarkable since she did it in Mississippi, then probably the state most plagued by racism. As Bowen commented, "if you were going to do civil rights work and you could do it in Mississippi, you

could do it anywhere."

Hamer was also very passionate about the cause, said Bowen. In fact, she once mentioned that she would be willing to give her life if it was necessary for the liberation and the gain of freedom of the black people. In fact, she did give her life for the cause of the movement. When she went to register to vote in Mississippi, she was beaten so badly that she never recovered completely and eventually died of her head wounds.

Bowen concluded her lecture by speaking about the joy and the power of movement: singing. The power of singing was demonstrated in many instances during the civil rights movement and it is still used today because "it's going to make you feel so much better." Originally, Bowen had planned for all of the attendees of the lecture to sing together. Unfortunately, there was no time for this because the program had to end.

Bowen, whose lecture was part of a week-long series of events aimed at giving students a new perspective on the civil rights movement,

received her Masters degree and her Ph. D. in women studies from Clark University in 1997. In fact, she was the first person to get a doctorate in this field from Clark University. Currently, she is assistant professor of women's studies at California State University, Long Beach. Her work and research focuses on Black history, social movements and African-American literature. She is also an active participant in the ongoing movement outside of the academic setting.

This particular event was organized by the Women's Center. The people of the center thought that the women's role in the civil rights movement would be an interesting subject to explore. All attendees received a free lunch.

In addition to Bowen's, all of the week's events were sponsored jointly by the Women's Center, the Caltech Y, International Student Programs, Minority Student Education, Human Resources, Counseling Center, Health Center, Writing Center, Peaceful Justice at Caltech and the President's Office.



A display outlines the life of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. last Thursday. Peaceful Justice Coalition coordinated the event. *J. Mao/The California Tech*

MLK DAY FORUM: 'NO BLOOD FOR RESEARCH CASH'?

NONVIOLENCE KEY IN DISCUSSION

Students Toy With Ethics of Accepting Military Funding

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either Department of Defense or the Department of Energy. One student said that his undergraduate research was given funding because it had applications as a rocket propellant in cruise missiles.

There was no consensus on what could be done.

Several students made the point that it was a decision between either accepting military funding and knowing that the results of one's research could be used in weapons in the future or abandoning one's research for the lack of funds.

Because the forum was held at lunch, there wasn't enough time to finish the discussion and the question of military funding was left unresolved.

The forum was coordinated by the Intercultural Discussion & Support Group, which meets every Monday at lunch on the second floor of the Center for Student Services. It was sponsored in part by The James Irvine Foundation and by various Caltech departments.

PJC Remembers King Tradition With Speeches, Displays, Posters

By IRAM PARVEEN-BILAL

This past Thursday, the Caltech community heard the inspiring voice of Martin Luther King, Jr., roaring out from speakers in front of the otherwise busy lunch area around the Red Door Cafe.

Caltech's own Peaceful Justice Coalition presented audio recordings of MLK's April 4, 1967 speech, "Beyond Vietnam," in its entirety. Club leaders also passed out free CDs with recordings of the equally famous "I've Been to the Mountain Top" and his Nobel Prize acceptance speech. In addition, they showcased an exhibit of photographs and quotes at various locales across campus.

Last year, only Caltech Public Speaking and PJC came together to celebrate MLK Day, and what they did celebrate they celebrated only in word, by reading his speeches. This year, however, many other campus groups organized activities throughout the week.

The speeches were among the many campus events commemorating the '60s-era civil rights leader. Others included a discussion on nonviolence and research, a lecture on women in the civil rights movement and an ongoing essay contest challenging students to connect the week's stated theme—"the audacity to believe"—to the community in a poem or 500-word essay for a \$250 prize.

Inspired by the nonviolent aspects of many cultures, including India's own nonviolent tradition of Gandhi, King is one of the world's best-known advocates of nonviolent so-

cial change strategies.

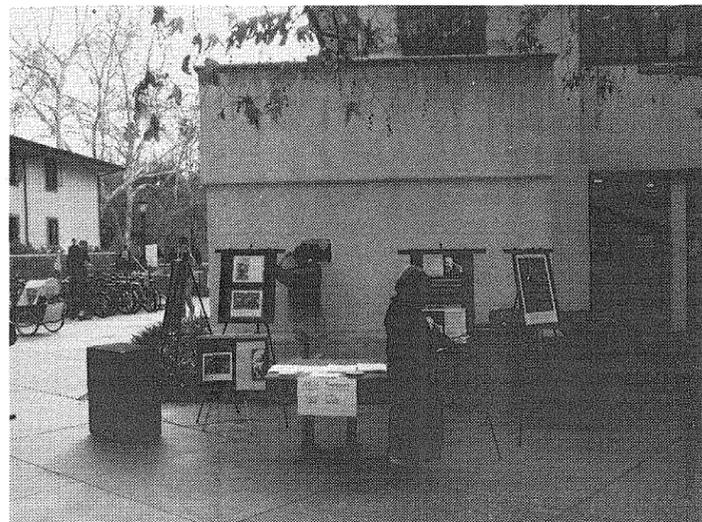
King's roots were in the African-American Baptist church. He worked for eradication of discrimination in society, be it racial, religious or socioeconomic, and was an activist for many social ideals, from black voting rights to poor people's campaigns targeting economic problems.

Remarking on the event, PJC's Kevin Bundy said, "The idea is to celebrate Martin Luther King Day by presenting his great talent as one of the foremost American orators of the 20th century. Because his work in the Civil Rights Movement is well known, we intend to focus on his later opposition to the Vietnam War and his progressive views on social and foreign policy in general.

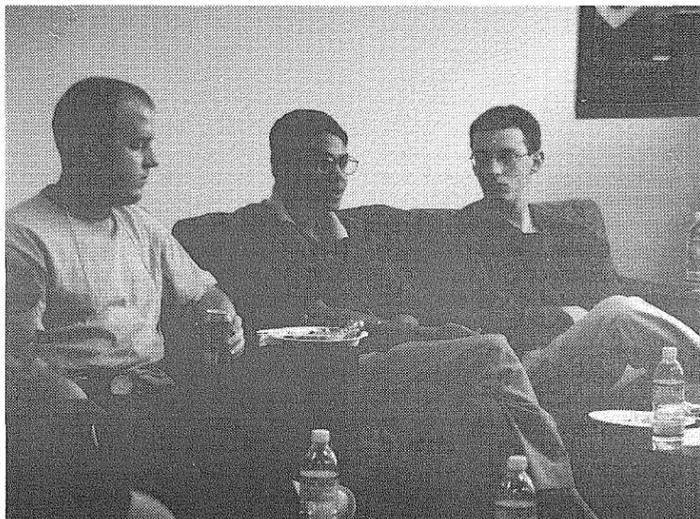
These are directly relevant to current issues, including the possible war in Iraq."

Formed shortly after the September 11 attacks, the Peaceful Justice Coalition aims to usher in more social awareness and political activism at Caltech.

"We believe Caltech has a lot of potential to play an active and important part in social and political activism," said Ki Won Yoon, graduate student and one of the members of the ten-student-run organization, "both in the greater Pasadena area and on a national level and I think we are already seeing the local impact that PJC has had in recent years with a constant stream of excellent and timely events."



MLK-themed posters adorn the walk before the Red Door Cafe, where students recited civil rights-era speeches last Thursday. *J. Mao/The California Tech*



Graduate students and staffers discuss the moral implications of accepting money for research with potential military applications. *D. Korta/The California Tech*

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