

Techers Encourage Future Techers

BY: GEORGE WANG

Twenty-eight Caltech students braved throngs of parents, children, and teachers on Saturday, March 4th to volunteer at the annual Science Olympiad Los Angeles Regional competition. Volunteers organized a series of team-based challenges encompassing a wide range of scientific domains, including astronomy, biology, chemistry, geology, mathematics, and physics.

Some volunteers proctored written events such as Fermi Questions, where high school students calculated order of magnitude estimates to questions that are difficult to directly compute, such as "How many electrons are in the human body?"

Other volunteers ran lab events such as Sounds of Music, where middle school students performed a musical composition on self-constructed instruments. Still other volunteers judged building events such as Mission Possible, where participants constructed a Rube Goldberg device to unroll a roll of toilet paper.

"Although there was a hectic moment where one of the events was almost cancelled," recalled competition coordinator and Caltech sophomore Peter Hung,

"everything turned out for the best. I believe everyone had a great time."

Balloon Race event captain and Caltech freshman Jerry Kwong agreed, "There was one event in particular where the competing



Photo by Peter Hung

Caltech freshman Calvin Yu demonstrates a contraption

kids had to construct a blimp from a helium balloon. Before we tested out the blimp, one kid stopped and told everyone in the room to stop breathing, thinking that our breathing would make the blimp rise faster [which gives the team a lower score]. Everyone got a chuckle out of that."

All in all, the Caltech volunteers were an indispensable part of the success of the event, helping out with over half the competition events. For this accomplishment, the Science Olympiad Staff recognized them as the "Caltech Heroes" at the awards ceremony.

The volunteers were also endowed with special medals. As a measure of how efficient and professional the Caltech volunteers were, not a single complaint was filed at a Caltech-run event. In addition, the competition finished on time for the first time in 7 years.

Volunteers who helped with the event include students Rob Barish, Chris Behn, Angela Chang, William Chueh, Dan Cullina, Sherwin Doroudi, Aimee Gillespie, Peter Hung, Jerry Kwong, John Leichty, Jack Lin, Kyle Litterer, Peter Liu, Olga Mandelsham, Deepak Mishra, Tommy Morphet, Jimmy Paulos, Chun Che Peng, Sierra Petersen, David (Zeb) Rocklin, Joy Sheng, Janet Sheung, Mason Smith, Jackson Wang, Mitchell Wang, Tina Wang, Guan (George) Wang, Calvin Yu and Dr. Peggy Li of JPL. Volunteers took a bus to the event at Cal Poly Pomona. Calvin and George helped coordinate the event with Peter. Caltech helped fund some of the monetary expenses.

Caltech will also be helping with the Science Olympiad State Competition on April 1st as part of the Caltech Y's Make a Difference program. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Peter Hung at peterh@its.caltech.edu.

André Mallié Resigns

BY: MATTHEW GLASSMAN

When Techers return from Spring Break in the next couple of weeks, they will be met with considerable changes in the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. A few weeks ago, André Mallié resigned from the position of Senior Director of Business Enterprises, a job that oversees Caltech Dining and the Bookstore in addition to numerous off-campus ventures. His resignation will become effective March 17th.

The news of this decision came just as the heated debate over the development of a 7-day board program at Caltech cooled down. Administration recently reconsidered this controversial plan in response to intense pressures from the undergraduate student population. However, there is little indication that this issue served as Mallié's motivation to leave the Institute.

"This is not the first time he has had other opportunities," noted Margo Marshak, the Vice President for Student Affairs, whom Mallié reported directly to as of this past year. "In the past he has decided to stay."

The Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Campus Life, Tom Mannion, recognized

a unique combination of culinary expertise and dining management in Mallié's work. "There's only so much you can do to keep someone of André's skill." Marshak agreed, believing that "he is probably the most talented head of dining in the country."

Neither Marshak nor Mannion could comment directly on Mallié's reasons for leaving or his plans after Caltech. Unfortunately, an interview could not be successfully coordinated with Mr. Mallié in time for the publication of this article.

Considering the recent confrontations between students and administration, Mallié in particular, the reception of this news of resignation was marked by mixed opinions among undergraduates.

As part of the Interhouse Committee (IHC), Matt Walker, a senior and former president of Ruddock House, had a number of conversations with Mallié regarding the 7-day board issue. "André himself was always very friendly and tried to be helpful," Walker recalled, "but I'm not sure if the IHC was able to get its point across all the time."

Many students felt as though they were being worked around instead of worked with. The pro-

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New Shuttle to LAX Free for Spring Break

BY: AMEERAH CHOWDHURY

Beginning March 15th, Techers will have a new way to get to LAX airport that is cheaper than Super Shuttle and more convenient than bribing a friend to drive. Los Angeles World Airports is introducing the new Flyaway bus service that will take passengers non-stop between Union Station in downtown L.A. and LAX airport.

The Flyaway service arrives just in time for spring break, and between March 15th to March 31st, Techers who ride the Gold line to Union Station can connect to the Flyaway and ride roundtrip to and from LAX for free. After March 31st, the Flyaway bus costs only \$3 each way.

The Flyaway buses use free-way carpool lanes, and have end-to-end travel times of less than 45 minutes during peak traffic. A Techer, who takes the Gold line to Union Station, and then catches the Flyaway bus can travel to LAX airport in little over an hour for \$4.25. The Flyaway bus beats the \$19 Super Shuttle, which schedules pick-ups 2-3 hours before departure, on both time and money.

The Flyaway buses are also frequent, and run in both directions every half hour between 5a.m. and 1a.m. and every hour from 1a.m. to 5a.m. A kiosk will sell Flyaway bus tickets 24 hours a

day, 7 days a week. The Flyaway buses depart Union Station and LAX on the hour and half-hour.

The Flyaway buses are more comfortable than public buses, and are designed with luggage bays and cushioned seats. Porters will assist Flyaway passengers with their luggage.

Passengers destined for LAX airport can catch the Flyaway buses from Berth 9 at Patsaouras/Gateway Transit Center, which is located on the east side of the trains at Union Station. Passengers departing LAX can catch the Flyaway buses to Union Station from the Lower/Arrival levels under green signs marked "Flyaway, Buses, and Long-Distance Vans."

Techers with heavy luggage will find that taking a taxi or having a friend drive them to the Del Mar Gold line station is most convenient. A taxi from Caltech to the Del Mar Gold line station, which is about a mile away, should cost around \$5. Techers with light luggage can ride the ARTS bus to a Gold line station in under six minutes. While the Gold Line does not have luggage bays, the train cars do have areas for heavy items like suitcases and bikes. For more information on Flyaway buses, visit the Los Angeles World Airports website (www.lawa.org). The Caltech Transit Guide (transitguide.caltech.edu) covers the finer details of getting to the Metro Gold line.

New Batch of Students in Progress

BY: ANNA HISZPANSKI

As high school students peer in their mailboxes awaiting an answer from Caltech, the Caltech Admissions Office is peering at its calendar and scheduling events for Prefrosh Weekend—a time during which admitted prospective students descend upon the campus to experience the Caltech life and decide if it is one they would like or not.

According to Director of Admission Rick Bischoff, nearly all the admission decisions have been made and letters of admission will be mailed approximately Wednesday, March 15th.

"We're very close [to having all initial offers for admission made]—within three or four places," said Bischoff.

In total, approximately five-hundred students will be admitted and about three-hundred will be offered a place on a waiting-list.

Applicants do not seem discouraged by the recent budget problems, the possibility of living in trailers, and the search for a new president. Bischoff says that applications were up thirty-five percent this year from last year.

"We're making fifty fewer offers of admission this year than last year," said Bischoff. "Last year's class was over the target size by ten percent so we don't want to have that happen again."

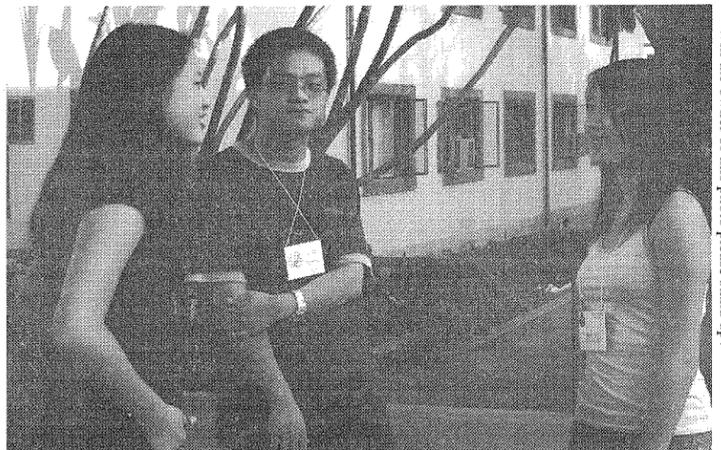
However, while figures suggest that prospective students

are not bothered by the changes, admission officers are slightly concerned about current students' feelings about the changes occurring on campus and the students' effect on the prefrosh when they visit.

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Will the owner of this photo please stand up?

Prefrosh from last year's Prefrosh Weekend Meet Each Other

I hear rumblings about some elements wanting to sabotage—convince prefrosh not to come," said Bischoff. "On the other hand, I don't think our students should be anything but honest. They should honestly help students figure out if this is a good place for them."

Due to budget cuts, the Office of Admissions was forced to reduce Prefrosh Weekend from its traditional three days to only two—a decision highly unpopular among high school students peer in their mailboxes awaiting an answer from Caltech, the Caltech Admis-

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Herschel Mukherjee says:
"I am not a terrorist."

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Institute renamed:
"CalGod Devotional Scenter"

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Different Reactions to Departure

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posals of a mandatory, everyday meal program was one issue that stimulated such sentiment. A less publicized matter that still keeps some students on edge is the continual suggestion of reconsidering waited dinners in the houses.

However, some students who have worked closely with Mallié see him in a very different light. Senior and chair of the food committee, Ryan Farmer believes that, "many people didn't notice most of the things he did and focus solely on the negative, particularly recently."

The atmosphere of dissatisfaction seems to pervade primarily the undergraduate population. In response to the question as to there being substantial friction between Mallié and other groups at Caltech, Marshak replied "no".

A significant dilemma facing Caltech today is that of maintaining immediate and adequate communication among the various groups of the community, openly discussing issues before decisions are made. Students still disagree on Mallié's success at this difficult art.

One student felt that when Mallié wanted to make changes, he did not show much interest in what the undergraduate committees had to say.

Others contest this judgment. "I think people will be quick to fault him for not communicating,

but I would disagree," Farmer asserted. "André was very concerned about this and made sure to communicate any potential issues to the food committee."

Although many different opinions are floating around on a number of issues, all seem to agree that the board program is much better off now than before Mallié came to run the dining services.

"From what I gather, there has been a big improvement," Walker said, comparing the current and former board programs, "but that was before my time." Farmer agreed, saying that "before [Mallié] joined Caltech, the state of dining and the board program was pitiful."

Mallié was originally hired by Mannion in the summer of 1997 as the executive chef and his position evolved soon after to include the role of Director of Dining. Caltech had been outsourcing its board program for some time before Mallié arrived, a business relationship that had not been beneficial for the Institute. Since Caltech Dining Services came into existence, the organization has won a substantial number of awards, including recognition in the category of residence hall dining, multiple years in a row.

Mallié's background includes experience with Stanford and the University of Iowa's dining departments in addition to running a high-end French restaurant.

Now that Mallié is leaving

Caltech, the Office of Student Affairs is looking to moderately restructure its organization. Taking the opportunity to step back and reassess resources, as most departments are being forced to nowadays, Marshak expected that Mallié's former position will report to Mannion. More importantly, many of the current peripheral enterprises that Dining supports, such as services at Westridge School or JPL, will be reevaluated. "The board program should remain the primary focus," Marshak emphasized.

The major hurdle the department faces is budgetary. "The challenges of meeting financial requirements makes the job harder," Mannion observed. Nevertheless, he has full faith in the ability of his colleagues to step up to the plate. "We pride ourselves in having the best in services [...] to support world class faculty and students."

Up until the 17th, Mallié will continue to work with Marshak and Mannion to keep everything running smoothly while the group considers how to move forward. One of the things that Mallié is going to miss is the opening of the new South Houses and their renovated kitchens, which he was a part of designing.

"We've worked together for a long time and shared the same visions and goals," Mannion recalled. "We all wish him well."

Joya Speaks for Women in Afghanistan

BY: VIBHA LALJANI

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Malalai Joya, a member to the National Assembly of Afghanistan discussed that contrary to media reports and White House officials, Afghan women are far from liberated. In fact, warlords supported over the years by the US are among the greatest threats to Afghan women's freedom today.

Joya, women's literacy and health worker, condemned warlords at a constitutional forum two years ago and has since survived four assassinations attempts. Last year, on September 19, she was elected to the Afghanistan Parliament. Joya hopes that by being on the parliament, she will be able to serve the poor and innocent people in her country, especially women and children.

She feels strongly that since women constitute a good part of the population, fundamental improvements in the state of Afghanistan can be brought about only if the state of women is improved. She is glad that her office already serves as the home of the poor and unfortunate people, where fathers can take their raped, burnt, and

beaten daughters.

Joya has been working nonstop to realize her dreams. She is the director of the Organization of Promoting Afghan Women's Capabilities (OPAWC) in Western Afghanistan. As a part of this organization, she has been providing education for girls in Afghanistan, running computer courses for women and running a hospital which particularly takes care of women and children.

Joya is currently on a multi-city speaking tour in the United States. Her mission is to spread awareness of the current status of Afghanistan women. She is here to request moral and material support and is trying to dissuade the United

States from supporting the warlords so that Afghan women can be liberated, and the country can move forward on its road to modernization. All in all, Ms. Joya's talk drew great interest from both men and women of the Caltech community. Judging by the reaction of the audience, her courage, character and achievement left us all very inspired.

This talk was held last Tuesday noon at Avery Dining Hall and was organized by the Caltech Women's Center and the Caltech Y.



Malalai Joya

Photo courtesy of malalaijoya.com

Announcements

PROF. MURRAY WINS FEYNMAN PRIZE

The Feynman Prize Selection Committee recommends that the 2005-2006 Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching go to Richard M. Murray, Professor of Control and Dynamical Systems. The committee recognizes Dr. Murray for special "enthusiasm," "creativity, innovation, and dedication" in a number of courses that run the gamut from introductory to advanced and that have succeeded in making the field of control theory accessible to an increasingly broad audience. On the basis of his dedication to teaching both inside and outside of class, one set of students invented a score, the "kiloMurray," to quantify his teaching style and talent, further explaining that few, if any others at Caltech, can currently aspire to the "kiloMurray" rating.

Dr. Murray is first singled out for his enthusiasm, responsiveness, and innovation in the conventional classroom situation. The students commented on his relentless dedication to making everyone understand the material embodied in his continual search for new ways to teach, often involving new technologies, and his resounding success in these endeavors.

ASCIT Board of Directors Minutes from the Olive Walk March 8, 2006

Present

- Officers: Todd Gingrich, Jean Sun, Vickie Pon, Csilla Felsen, Chris Gonzales, Nathan Donnellan, Chris Watson, RJ Krom, Jonathan Senn, Craig Montuori
- Guests: Eddie Truong-Cao

I. ASCIT Budget

- The BoD met over the weekend to prepare the new 2006-2007 ASCIT Budget.

- Not too many significant changes were made. The more significant changes that were made include:
* Decreased salaries for the publications, while bonuses were increased. Unlike past years, salaries will be made sure to be distributed.

* Decreased the budget for AV and lights since ASCIT doesn't need to buy new ones, just maintain them. The ASCIT lights are now going to be maintained by the Social Director (Chris G.).

* Funds from the Multihouse budget were moved to the Interhouse budget for Avery.

* Semana Latina will be funded this year.
* The Olive Walk Party and Other School Party budgets were combined and increased for a South House Re-opening Party budget.

* Funds for donuts were increased to include funds for an additional mid-

He is further recognized for his contribution to the undergraduate experience through teaching outside the conventional classroom. EE/CS/ME 75a,b,c, Introduction to Multidisciplinary Systems Engineering, presents fundamentals of modern systems engineering in the context of a substantial design project. He used this course as a venue for Team Caltech, Caltech's entry into the DARPA Grand Challenge, an autonomous robot race in the desert. The students, under the guidance of Dr. Murray, planned, organized, scheduled, and implemented "Alice," Caltech's entry into the Grand Challenge.

POLITICAL INTERNSHIP

The Beckman Political Internship will be available again this summer. The internship, supported by friends of Arnold O. Beckman, will pay a stipend of \$5,000. It allows a selected intern to spend the summer working in the office of a politician or a government agency and to see from the inside the process of government. The applicant is expected to make arrangements with the appropriate political persons or organizations. The internship is open to any Caltech undergraduate who intends to be a student here next year. If interested, submit a proposal describing where and how you would use the stipend

night donuts.

- All changes will be explained in the Tech when the new budget is published.

Vote: A vote was taken to approve the 2006-2007 ASCIT Budget as prepared at the budget meeting. Approved (8Y/0N/0A).

II. Bonuses

- The four individual bonus amounts were voted on for approval. Approved bonuses will be distributed promptly.

* The Big T: \$200, Vote: Approved (8Y/0N/0A).

* The little t: \$400, Vote: Approved (8Y/0N/0A).

* Totem: \$300, Vote: Approved (8Y/0N/0A).

* Team Donut: \$0 in bonuses, but will make sure the \$3,000 salary is paid, Vote: Approved (8Y/0N/0A).

III. Stewardship Committee - Eddie

- Eddie explained in detail what the Stewardship Committee does and what his role is as Chair.

- The Stewardship Committee consists of the Damage Rep's from each house, the Chair, and 2 members from Housing. Their purpose is to better maintain the houses. A few items that are being worked on are the old smoke bomb found in Ricketts, wiring the gates for the Mods, resolve issues with the fire policy, and many other items.

IV. Club Funding Meeting (April

along with one faculty recommendation, to the Deans' Office, 210-87, or email machang@caltech.edu, by MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2006

ATTENTION WRITERS!

The English Faculty is pleased to announce the 60th Annual McKinney Competition. The Mary A. Earl McKinney Prize is awarded each year for excellence in writing. Only full-time students officially registered at Caltech as undergraduates are eligible to enter the competition. This year, prizes will be given in three categories: poetry, prose fiction, and non-fiction essays. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced. Include your address and phone number. In the poetry category, entrants may submit up to three poems. Submissions of prose fiction should not exceed 12,000 words. Essays may be ones prepared for a humanities class or any good piece of original writing on a topic relevant to the humanities. The prize in each category will be \$500. Each student is entitled to only one entry in each category. Contestants should submit hard copies of their work to Professor Jenijoy La Belle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, by no later than April 14, 2006. No entries will be returned. Each category will be judged

9th, 2006)

- Club funding forms will go out later this week for all ASCIT clubs to fill out.

- The club funding meeting where all clubs attend to request funding will be on Sunday, April 9th. Vickie will confirm a place and time for the meeting.

V. Donut Privileges

- The earlier vote to grant the Tech Editors and Food Chair email privileges through Donut has been questioned by some people. The BoD discussed this issue further and has differing opinions on whether or not to grant these privileges. Team Donut will be invited to the next BoD meeting to discuss this with us further. Email privileges will not be given until after more discussion.

VI. Alumni Board Meeting (March 10th, 2006)

- The BoD is invited to attend the CAA Board meeting on Friday, March 10th, to discuss current student concerns on campus. Items brought up at this meeting will be published in the Tech.

- One item that will be discussed is how the CAA and ASCIT can help bring Prefrosh Weekend back to 3 days.

VII. Athletics Survey

- Nathan, Todd, and Scott Miserendino from the GSC will create and quickly post an athletics survey to help with the athletics investigation

by a committee from the English Faculty. Essays will be judged on the quality of thought and the effectiveness of the writing. Winners will be announced in May, and the names of the winners will appear in the commencement program. The Committee may divide the award in each category in case of more than one outstanding submission. Previous winners in any one category are not eligible for the competition in that category. If you have any questions, contact Prof. La Belle, extension 3605, or Lisa Keppel, extension 3609.

HALLETT SMITH

The English 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 literature class or may be specifically written for this competition. No student can submit more than one essay. All contestants must submit two hard copies of their work to Professor Jenijoy La Belle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, no later than April 14, 2006. This year's prize will be \$350, though the judging committee may divide the award in case

led by Sharon Borbon.

VIII. Elections Bylaw Revisions

- A meeting to review, discuss, and vote on the proposed Elections bylaws amendments will occur at the beginning of Spring term.

IX. Movie Library

- Chris W. is working on getting the movie library computer. The library's almost ready to be set up in Chandler!

X. ASCIT Bulletin Board

- The BoD needs to send personal pictures to Chris W. by this Friday for the bulletin board.
- The bulletin board will be set up as soon as possible, either during spring break or directly afterwards.
- Minutes will be posted in the Bulletin Board.

XI. IHC News

- Craig reported that an itemized list of costs for Prefrosh Weekend is being prepared to help in getting it back to 3 days.

- IHC Secretary sign-ups are up now.

- The IHC is looking into their committees. If anyone has questions regarding their committees, they can talk to Margo Marshak.

XII. Blacker Interhouse

- Chris W. requested Interhouse funds for Blacker's upcoming Interhouse party.
Vote: A vote to grant Blacker House

of more than one outstanding submission. For more information, contact Prof. La Belle, extension 3605, or Lisa Keppel, extension 3609.

MERIT AWARDS

Each year, the Scholarships and Financial Committee Aid recommends a number of the most academically-talented of the Institute's sophomores and juniors and, in special circumstances, freshmen for Upper Class Merit Awards. Upper Class Merit Awards are based on outstanding scholastic achievement as demonstrated by exceptional academic performance, independent research, and extracurricular activities since beginning academic studies at Caltech. They are not based on financial need. The level of awards is determined by the caliber of the applicants. Approximately \$1,000,000 will be awarded this year. Last year, the Committee recommended a total of 57 Upper Class Merit Awards. Awards ranged from 3/4 tuition, to full tuition, room and board.

www.finaid.caltech.edu/UpperClassMeritAwardMarch2006.

Interhouse party funds (\$500) was taken. Approved (9Y/0N/0A).

Next BoD Meeting will be first week of Spring term!

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Pon

The California Tech

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The Outside World



BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC DIES AT 64

Slobodan Milosevic died in his cell at The Hague on Saturday, just months before the end of his trial for war crimes in the Balkans.

An eight-hour autopsy revealed that the former Yugoslavian president, who had had heart problems, died suddenly of a massive heart attack, according to Serbian officials. Rumors that he had been poisoned are rampant, since Milosevic wrote in a letter to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov "They would like to poison me. I'm seriously concerned and worried."

Milosevic was on trial for 66 war crimes committed during the wars in Croatia, Kosovo, and Bosnia in the 1990's. He was known as the "Butcher of the Balkans" for his ethnic cleansing campaign in which Bosnian Serbs killed Bosnian Muslims.

BIRD FLU SPREADING IN AFRICA

The deadly bird flu H5N1 has spread to Cameroon, after being

reported in Nigeria, Egypt, and Niger. Ninety-seven people have been reported dead worldwide, mostly in Vietnam and Indonesia. The bird flu has killed or forced the slaughter of some 140 million birds and ducks in Asia since 2003.

CHILE INAUGURATES FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT

Michelle Bachelet, 54, was sworn in as Chile's first female president after a large win in January's polls. Bachelet was tortured by the former military junta in Chile which governed Chile more than 16 years ago. Bachelet now wishes to build a more equitable society by giving women and indigenous people a greater voice, as well as closing the gap between the rich and the poor. Bachelet, a doctor and single mother, is a unique candidate for the typically conservative country.

CONVICTED NURSE GAGGED WITH DUCT TAPE AT SENTENCING

Charles Cullen, former nurse who claimed to kill 40 patients during his career, was gagged

with duct tape in the courtroom when he refused to cease repeating the phrase "Your honor, you need to step down." The hearing went on anyway, and new sentence brought his total punishment to 18 life sentences.

TORNADOES KILL 2 IN MISSOURI

Twisters in southern Missouri and Illinois destroyed homes late Saturday night and blew a car off the road, killing a married couple.

IRAN REFUSES RUSSIAN COMPROMISE

Moscow's compromise on Iran's nuclear program is "off the agenda" for Iran, as reported to the UN Security Council. Russia sought to move Iran's nuclear program to Russian soil where the UN could closely monitor it. Foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi qualified the statement, saying that Iran was still willing to negotiate provided Iran could still conduct nuclear research on its own soil.

News compiled by BBC, CNN, and FOX.

Planning Prefrosh Weekend

Continued from page 1

and the search for a new president. Bischoff says that applications were up thirty-five percent this year from last year.

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Due to budget cuts, the Office of Admissions was forced to reduce Prefrosh Weekend from its traditional three days to only two—a decision highly unpopular with undergraduates. Usually students arrive on a Thursday for three days of planned activities and depart Sunday morning. This year, however, prefrosh will arrive Thursday, April 20th and depart a day earlier, Saturday, April 22nd.

The reduction in the weekend was forced because providing meals for prefrosh on Saturday is significantly more costly when Caltech Dining Services is not fully operational. Due to budget cuts, the Admissions Office is unable to fund the Saturday meals.

"Do I like budget cuts? No. Do I want to reduce Prefrosh Weekend? No. It's a big headache," said Bischoff.

When the seven day board plan was announced, Bischoff said that next year's Prefrosh Weekend would last for three days again since the cost of feeding the prefrosh would be reduced. However, since the cancellation of the plan, the duration of the 2007 Prefrosh Weekend—whether it be two or three days—is uncertain.

"I very much want to move back to a three day weekend. After this, we'll sit down and figure out how

to get back to a three day Prefrosh Weekend," said Bischoff.

The logistics of orchestrating an event such as Prefrosh Weekend can be quite complicated due to Caltech's small size. As Bischoff pointed out, even sending prospective students to Chandler Dining Hall for a Friday lunch would be difficult since Chandler would be overwhelmed by the large number.

According to Bischoff, MIT, one of Caltech's most significant competitors for prospective students, has an admissions budget for recruitment which is four to five times the size of Caltech's. Nevertheless, he believes that the difference in funds will not make a significant impact on the final decisions these prefrosh make.

"Would I like more money? Sure," said Bischoff. "However, throwing a huge extravagant weekend to compete with MIT does not make sense. You're not choosing a Prefrosh Weekend; you're choosing a university. MIT and Caltech are fundamentally different places and after Prefrosh Weekend prospective students should walk away understanding what MIT is about and what Caltech is about. We have to compete on the things that make Caltech, Caltech."

Though shortened by a day, most of the events from previous years are being preserved.

"There will be academic sessions with professors, one on SURF, and lab tours. Student Affairs staff will also present other opportunities at CIT (Women's Center, Study Abroad, Pre-med, etc.) There will be a variety of tours, an athletics open house, and of course, the club fair," wrote Genevieve Ko, an Assistance Director of the Admissions Office, in an email response. "The houses will continue to run the evening activities, and there will also be both a music concert and theater show in the evening."

Current students play a significant role in organizing and running events during Prefrosh Weekend. The Admissions Office is seeking more students to help during the weekend. Any undergraduates interested in volunteering to help with activities or to host a prospective student should speak to their house representative or stop by the Admissions Office, Steele House, 355 Holliston Ave.

Karaoke Contest!

Can you sing? Sign up for the 3rd annual Caltech Idol Contest on March 15th at noon at the Tech Express.

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

Discover the mechanism of the fine structure constant

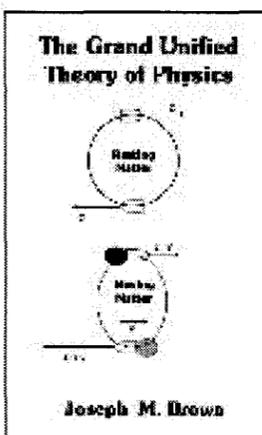
- Basically the fine structure constant is the ratio of the electromagnetic force to the nuclear force.
- In the grand unified theory of physics all forces are due to the square of velocities.
- The numerator of the fine structure ratio is the electrostatic force speed and the denominator is the nuclear binding force speed v_n , the background mean speed.
- The electrostatic force is due to a wave propagating at v_n , followed by wave propagating at the background rms speed v_r , which lags the mean speed by 180° plus the small lag angle δ due to the time required for the background to pass through the condensed core of the proton.
- The electromagnetic speed thus is $v_r \cos \delta - v_n$ (instead of $(v_r - v_n)$ which is the speed of light).
- If the travel distance through the proton's neutrino is 0.013866 times the proton radius, then the fine structure constant is related to the Maxwell-Boltzmann gas parameters within experimental error.

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

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Restaurants**Fu on Food: Big Meng-meng on Big Mama's BBQ**

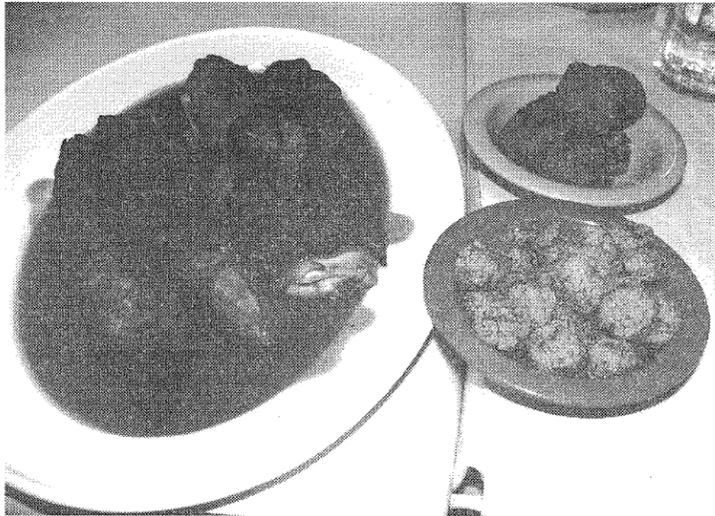
BY: MENG-MENG FU

Everyone has their secret food indulgences; mine is for Southern food. As a rule, soul food or Cajun food cannot be any good if it's healthy. So heap on the butter, the sugar, and the calories. If you're looking for authentic Southern cooking, do not head to the typical yuppie locale of Old Pas. Look north; look to Big Mama's Rib Shack and Soul Food. You can't go wrong with a name like that! Located on Lake, it is north of the 210 and just past Washington Blvd. on the left side of the street. There is ample parking right next to the restaurant.

On the outside, the restaurant is non-descript, with the exception of the large "Big Mama's" sign. Inside, the restaurant is surprisingly chic and modern. On the right side of the restaurant are several cozy booths. On the left side, there is a more traditional seating area, which is offset by the small bar and a big-screen TV (they were showing Syracuse's Big East conference victory when I went). My favorite part of the décor is the ginormous life-sized portrait of Big Mama.

At Big Mama's, Scarlett O'Hara would never go hungry again! From the moment you sit down, a heaping bowl full of corn bread muffins is plopped in front of you and constantly re-

reasonably priced at about \$8-\$13 and comes with your choice of 2 side dishes. If you're feeling gluttonous, go for the combo specials, which also include the 2 sides. The BBQ Combo (\$16)



The BBQ Combo with fried okra and hush puppies

filled. Eat these with butter and honey, but be careful – it's very easy to fill yourself up on them so remember to save room for the actual meal. The huge portions are a trademark of Big Mama's. As my friend exclaimed, "There's more meat hidden in the BBQ sauce!" Each entrée is

comes with 2 pork ribs, 2 pieces of chicken, 1 hot link (a cross between a sausage and a hot dog), and 2 pieces of sliced pork or beef. The Cajun Combo (\$17) includes jambalaya, gumbo, and chicken/shrimp creole. In my experience, the combo is more than enough to feed 2 people.

Big Mama's BBQ sauce is first and foremost sweet, but it is also spicy and tangy, and has a hint of hickory. The meats are savory because they are infused with the BBQ sauce and then doused in some more sauce. The consistency of the meat is just right; for example, the chicken is browned on the outside, but tender on the inside. The meat on the ribs literally falls off the bone. While the BBQ may be described by some as overpowering, the jambalaya and other creole dishes are more subdued. There is just enough seasoning and spices in the jambalaya, with delectable morsels of meat and seafood. Big Mama's does not go overboard with the cayenne or chili, which is sometimes a problem in Cajun cooking.

Every week, I make an effort to try something "interesting". This week: PIG'S FEET! Having previously consumed this "delicacy", I must say that Big Mama's swine appendages leave much to be desired. You are served 2 hooves, which are over-boiled in a bland broth to the extent that the foot itself is unfurled and no longer in tact. The skin and tendons are rendered soggy and taste like fat; this is unfortunate, because any joy that I've remotely garnered in eating pig's feet was derived from their chewiness. For those who are still feeling adventur-

ous, Big Mama's also offers ham hocks, ox tails, and chitterlings.

The beauty of Big Mama's is variety. With each entrée, you get to try 2 different side dishes, including black-eyed peas, candied yams, cole slaw, collard greens, dirty rice, fried okra, hush puppies, mac & cheese, potato salad, mashed potatoes and gravy, and much more. I recommend the fried okra and hush puppies (little balls of fried seasoned cornmeal). Big Mama's fried foods have just enough of the thin, crispy, cornmeal coating, and the inside is soft and warm. The fried okra is amazing: it crunches, then nearly melts in your mouth. The candied yams are also good; they are sinfully sweet – each spoonful is a like dose of diabetes.

Big Mama's gets a 6 out of 7 from me. Though the BBQ is delicious, the simplicity of Big Mama's sauce would not hold up to the layers of taste in sauces from pros like Tom Mannion.

Pros: huge portions with free side dishes, traditional sides done right (e.g. fried okra and hush puppies).

Cons: avoid the "exotic" dishes, sometimes you have to ask for refills (like with cornbread).

PS – If you're curious, check out the menu and the history of the restaurant at www.big-mamas-ribshack.com.

Todd's Paperside Chat**05-06 ASCIT Budget**

In addition to having the opportunity to fetch donuts and meet with administrators, the ASCIT BoD has the great honor to set the ASCIT budget. Recently the following budget for March 2006-March 2007 was approved by the BoD, so I want to quickly summarize what I believe to be the most notable changes to the budget. Budgets from past years can be found at donut.caltech.edu/about/budget for comparison.

The most notable change in the publications budget is the shift of \$1000 from the donut web development team's salary into bonuses. In the past the development team was paid \$3000, but currently the development team is much smaller than it once was. By transferring the money into bonuses, we can more accurately pay donut and editors of publications extra if they perform exceptionally.

Most of the operational budget was similar to last year's budget. Small increases in budgets for Jamroom Maintenance, BoC, IHC, ARC, and the Coffeehouse Party were all made. There will be a reduction in the amount of money allotted for athletics letter subsidies and ASCIT audiovisual equipment. Last year's audiovisual budget was abnormally high because ASCIT purchased new lights, but this year's budget only includes maintenance. In recent years some of the athletics subsidy money that has been budgeted has not been used, so we decided to give less money up front. If it becomes apparent that more than \$200 is necessary for this year because more people are lettering then the BoD can approve money from discretionary funds.

In general, the BoD feels that putting more money into the "Project Reserves" fund will allow us to have greater control over ensuring that ASCIT actually uses all of its money. In past years ASCIT generally ends the year with a surplus because items such as athletics letter sub-

Publications \$7900

California Tech \$6750
Totem \$750
Little T \$400

Salaries \$4900

Big T \$500
Little T \$300
Totem \$250
Donut Web Development \$2000
Bonuses \$1850

Operations \$8400

DVD Library \$2000
ASCIT Teaching Awards \$1200
Jamroom Maintenance \$300
Athletic Letter Subsidies \$200
BoC \$2000
IHC \$250
ARC \$300
Coffeehouse Party \$400
ASCIT BoD \$250
Student-Faculty Lunches \$1000
ASCIT Speakers and Lights \$200
Staff Awards \$300

Special Projects \$6950

Screening Room \$150
Project Reserves \$6800

Special Events \$1850

Pranks \$750
Caltech Y \$500
Student-Faculty Conference \$0 (No Student-Faculty Conference this year)
Semana Latina \$500
Senior Class Gift \$100

Social Events \$24100

Donuts \$4200
Bagels \$750
ASCIT Formal \$3000
Multihouse Events Fund \$2400
Interhouse Events Fund \$4000
Athletics BBQ's \$2250
Happy Hours \$1250
South House Reopening \$3250
Other Social Events \$3000

Clubs \$14000

sidies are not fully used. By the time the BoD knows that a line item will be under budget the fiscal year is already over and the surplus is traditionally saved in an ASCIT account. By transferring some of the money into the project reserves budget, the BoD can keep closer tabs on how much money is remaining at the end of the year. This gives us the power to fund special events and offer special funding to spend the surplus.

Within the Special Events budget, more money was allotted to support pranks this next year. As in the past, ASCIT will help support significant pranks, but the funding request should be brought to the BoD prior to the prank. Additionally, we decided to give money to support Semana Latina. This money was given regularly in the past but was not given last year.

The social events budget remained steady, but money within social events was shifted slightly. More money was given for donuts in order to fund two midnight donuts for Fall term. Following the success of last year's ASCIT formal, we decided to give a little more money for this year's formal, too. The most significant change in the social budget is that in place of the Jimmy Eat World concert, ASCIT will be funding a South House Reopening Party.

Club funding will be decided by an upcoming process that is separate from the rest of the budgeting. Club funding proposals can be found at donut.caltech.edu/clubs/budgetproposal.pdf and all clubs are encouraged to apply.

As always, I welcome comments or concerns. Feel free to email me at gingrich@caltech.edu. Even though the budget is set, we still have considerable flexibility in funding additional events and programs through the project reserves budget.

Prank o'the Week

Have you pulled or been witness to any Caltech pranks, great or small? E-mail them to thetech@caltech.edu and they may get published in *Legends of Caltech: Volume IV* in addition to being **The Prank o'the Week**.

The Engineering Building Elevator

BY: RICHARD ALVAREZ ('57)

From *Legends of Caltech III: Techer in the Dark*

One of my classmates was intrigued by the logic circuitry of automatic elevators. In those days, the logic circuitry consisted of electromechanical relays and a lot of wires. Somehow we found a circuit diagram for the Engineering building elevator.

That building had five floors: three floors above-ground, and two basements. We probably picked the lock into the elevator machinery room, and then he rewired it so that the elevator always went two floors below the floor where the pas-

senger wanted to go, complete with floor-wrap, so that if you pushed the button for the first basement, you want to floor three; if you pushed the button for the sub-basement, you went to floor two.

Then we rode the elevator every day to see how long it would take for somebody to figure out what to do to restore proper service. A few days later, it was fixed, but the rewiring had been done in the elevator car's control panel, rather than in the equipment room.

The California Tech would like to wish everyone good luck on finals and remind frosh that it's not too late to transfer. Wherever you find yourself this spring break, we hope The Tech continues to hold a special place in your heart.

Carlson Honored in Post-Season

BY: GUSTAVO OLM

While stories on the Caltech men's basketball team have filled newspapers this season, team members agree that no Beaver is more deserving of the spotlight than senior team captain Jordan Carlson. Call him a guard, call him a forward, or refer to him (as Ali G would) as the "M-P-Free". The bottom line is that Carlson is Caltech's most valuable asset on the basketball court. After this past season, Carlson was named 2nd Team All-Conference, and the 2006 recipient of the Ted Ducey Award.

Heading into the end of the season, Coach Roy Dow felt Carlson was a lock for 1st Team All-SCIAC. Voted on by the coaches, each 'team' consists of six players. Jordan narrowly missed selection into the 1st Team, and instead settled for 2nd. Carlson remarked, "It's now time to concentrate on physics."

Along with the All-SCIAC honors, Carlson was the recipient of the 2006 Ted Ducey Award, named after the legendary CMS Athletic Director and basketball coach of the 60s and 70s. Ducey's teams were well-coached, fundamentally sound, sportsman-like, and intensely competitive. The significance of the Ducey

Award is highlighted by the fact that candidates are nominated by and voted on by the conference's players.

According to Coach Dow, "No other player in the conference does for his team what Jordan does for us. Jordan consistently handles the ball well against pressure and guards the opponent's best players, both out on the wing and in the post. Jordan is irreplaceable—none of the other MVP candidates would be as effective if they played for Caltech."

Carlson, the team's MVP last season, has led the team in nearly every statistical category this year. Jordan was ranked among SCIAC's Top-10 list in six categories: 3rd in scoring with an average of 19.2 ppg, 3rd in minutes (33.5 per contest), 6th in total rebounding at 6.2 rpg, 9th in field goal percentage at 50.8%, and 10th in free-throw shooting with a 73% success rate. Arguably the most impressive stat is Jordan's SCIAC-high in free throws attempted (196) and made (143). Only one other player in the conference attempted over 125 foul shots.

Despite playing only three seasons of intercollegiate basketball at Caltech, Carlson amassed over 1000 points. He is the first to accomplish the feat since Jon Bird in 2003.



Jordan Carlson, "M-P-Free," was named 2nd Team All-Conference and the 2006 recipient of the Ted Ducey Award.

Photo by Lisa Tran

Recent Results

Baseball:

3/4: Alumni game (Home): W, 11-5
3/9: Bethany (WV) (Home): L, 1-20

Women's Tennis:

3/3: Concordia Univ. (Home): postponed due to rain

Men's Tennis:

3/4: Cal Lutheran Univ. (Conference

Match) (Away): L, 1-6

Women's Water Polo:

3/3: UC Santa Cruz (Away): L, 5-15
3/5-6: CSU East Bay Invit.: vs. CSU Sonoma: L, 4-14
vs. CSU East Bay: L, 2-11
vs. CSU Monterey Bay: L, 5-14
vs. UC Davis (club): L, 1-15

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 13th

10:00AM - Women's Tennis vs. Wesleyan (CT)

1:00PM - Men's Tennis vs. Wesleyan (CT)

Thursday, March 16th

9:00AM - Men's and Women's Track & Field @ CSU Northridge

Friday, March 17th

9:00AM - Men's and Women's Track & Field @ CSU Northridge

Saturday, March 18th

All-Day - Women's Water Polo @ C-M-S Tournament

9:00AM - Men's and Women's Track & Field @ Whittier

9:00AM - Men's Tennis vs. U of Wisconsin - Oshkosh

2:00PM - Women's Tennis vs. Rochester (NY)

Sunday, March 19th

All-Day - Women's Water Polo @ C-M-S Tournament

9:00AM - Men's Tennis vs. Colorado College

Monday, March 20th

12:30PM - Women's Tennis vs. Mills (CA)

Tuesday, March 21st

9:00AM - Men's Tennis vs. Middlebury (VT) @ C-M-S

10:00AM - Women's Water Polo vs. U

of Maryland

2:00PM - Women's Water Polo vs. Washington & Jefferson (PA)

Wednesday, March 22nd

10:30AM - Women's Tennis vs. Salisbury (MD)

10:30AM - Men's Tennis vs. Salisbury (MD)

Saturday, March 25th

12:00PM - Baseball @ Simpson University (CA)

Monday, March 27th

11:00AM - Men's Tennis vs. Lewis & Clark (OR)

Tuesday, March 28th

2:30PM - Baseball vs. Pomona-Pitzer

3:00PM - Women's Tennis vs. M.I.T.

Friday, March 31st

9:00AM - Men's Track & Field SCIAC Multi-Dual @ C-M-S

2:00PM - Women's Tennis @ Pomona-Pitzer

2:00PM - Men's Tennis vs. Pomona-Pitzer

Saturday, April 1st

9:00AM - Women's Track & Field SCIAC Multi-Dual @ Pomona 9:30AM

- Women's Tennis vs. La Verne

2:00PM - Men's Tennis @ La Verne

11:00AM - Women's Water Polo vs. Redlands

Mark Eichenlaub's Track Prattle

Meditations on My Groin: My Story of Running at Caltech

BY: MARK EICHENLAUB

The training of a distance runner is principally composed of drudgery. I've run more than 6000 miles since my first day of preseason cross country practice at Tech two and a half years ago. I run almost every day, sometimes twice, up to a hundred miles a week of hard work, mostly alone. I endure maladies from chafing and shin splits to (most recently) hail storms and mud pits, to the heavy black cloak of weariness that soaks itself deep into a distance runner's muscles, bones, and mind, but, we hope, not his heart.

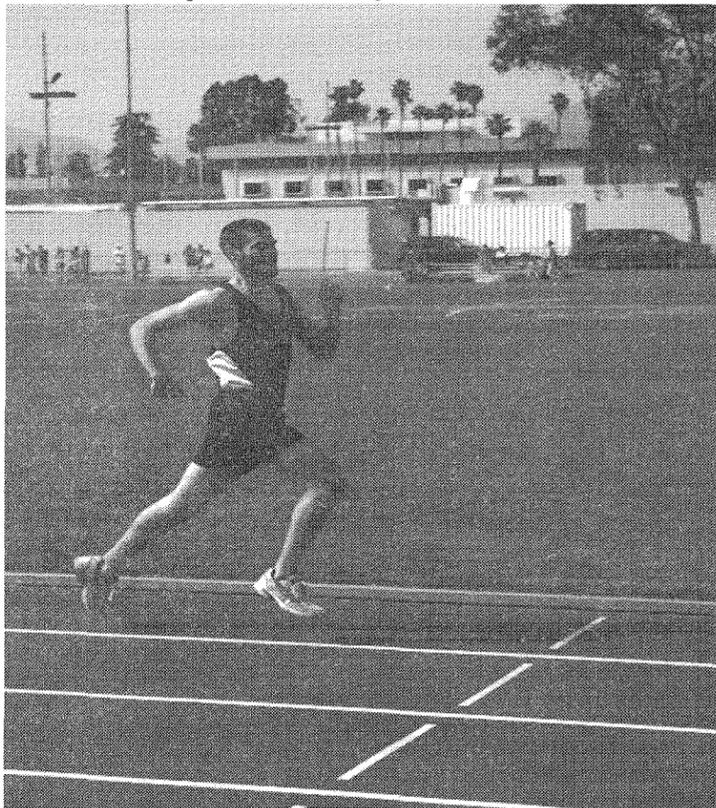
I do it all in hopes of growing an ounce stronger, running a step faster, placing a spot higher, pushing myself an inch further. I seek only to come a bit closer to some elusive specter of an ultimate goal that floats far out before me, haunting my dreams and hogging my energy. It is a ghost I know I will never catch. No matter how fast or how far I force my legs and lungs beyond the pain and fatigue they have already known, this translucent apparition, with its tantalizing promise of the ultimate satisfaction and the deep self-knowledge I yearn for, will always drift effortlessly a bit out of reach.

This begs three questions. First, why would I do this? Second, why aren't I writing about this week's track meet? Third, why aren't I being funny? The middle question is easiest, and maybe its answer will grant some insight towards the other two. I am injured.

So, while our sprinters and field athletes loaded the vans early in the morning last Saturday to drive out to the Ben Brown Invitational at Mt. San Antonio College, I tossed and turned in my bed, pretending that when I awoke the dull pain of my strained groin would have become at least a little bit duller. While the second van loaded up to leave two hours later, I awoke, glanced at my clock, heard the rain beating

the cold cement of the Ruddock loading zone, and drifted back to sleep. While our top sprinters crouched in their blocks with their coiled, muscular legs primed to scream with an unabashed but perfectly-channeled fury as they launched themselves into the first turn of the 400m amidst an icy assault from the heavens, I jogged my pittance three miles around the infield of the track, wondering abstractly if I was about to feel something tear apart inside me. As our 4x100m relay materialized for the first time this year, and later as hurdles clattered angrily out of our runners' ways, I was sitting, drenched in my own sweat, attempting to ignore the soreness in my butt induced by the exercise bike's seat and trying to believe that this futile exercise would retain the fitness I had cultivated all year, and which I imagined I could feel dripping out through my idle feet with every hour spent hunched over a textbook at my desk.

I suppose I have not painted so positive a picture of the life of a runner. When you're injured, that's hard to do. An injury is frustrating at best and heartbreaking at worst. But it is this way only because I love what I do so deeply that to have it denied to me for even a day by my own body's weakness is excruciating. I wish I could take this week's thousand words and tell you why I run. I wish I could bare my soul with a neat, simple list enumerating the benefits beside fancy little starred bullet points. I cannot. They've given me awards, medals and plaques for running. They sit in my closet in a pile. I have won races, but I never daydream of the victories of the past. I love my team and my training partners who have shared great times with me and consoled me in bad ones, but when I hear the words of the great Finnish runner, Paavo Nurmi, "I ran for myself, not Finland," I know they are true. I run for the benefit of no team. I run for only one man.



Ever the masochist, Mark Eichenlaub surges across a finish line in a burst of pain.

If you wanted to hype things up, you could say I run for the challenge, because I wish to push myself beyond the old limits and in the process learn the nature of who I am; that I run for self-confidence and to find inner peace. If you wanted to expose the villainess of my base motivations, you could say I run out of ego; that I compete solely because hidden inside me is the dark secret that I believe I am a better man than my competitors, and if they throw at me everything they have, but I handle it all, throw it back harder, and beat them to the finish line over and over again when they have given their best, then I will own them. In this way my subconscious delusions of superiority curl themselves faster around my wide arteries and powerful heart. But these are merely two different ways of saying the same thing,

distorted through oppositely-polarized moral lenses. Neither is completely true. And the moral judgments of my motivations are ones I cannot make.

All I can say is this: I run because of the day when I came around the turn into the backstretch for the bell lap of a 1500m race and a nascent power rose in my legs, surprising me with a source I had never before discovered but suddenly tapped, and I glided past the best distance runners in the conference into the lead, not knowing what would happen, but only that I was in peak shape, sharing a beautiful race with fifteen other athletes, and that it was good. I run because of the day when bald rays of sun sliced through the muggy August-in-Baltimore air to cook my brain from the inside as I hammered away at set of repeat quar-

ter-miles, soaking in sweat and lactic acid, bending over on the infield and tasting a tablespoon of bile slowly eat a whole through the back of my esophagus, rasping for oxygen in a few brief moments respite before tearing off on the next quarter, and loving every moment, cherishing it and wringing every last drop of pain out of it, because the pain was mine.

This pain came from inside me, summoned by my own will, and even if it hurt me and made me wish to die, at least it was a world all my own. I was, for the first time ever, the only one in control of it all. Teachers and homework and chores and responsibilities and fears and doubts could all go fuck themselves. I existed only in this moment of perfectly-liberating pain. That too was good. I run because of the day where I loped my way through long, repeating loops of a trail when I gradually became aware my effort had ceased. I no longer ran over a trail. I stood atop the world, and as I lifted my legs the Earth spun beneath me at a perfect ten miles an hour, obliging to my every whim for mile after mile, until at last I had enough and stopped, and climbed a hill looking down on my little loop, but then turned around to look out at the world before me, and I knew then that life was good, at least for a time, no matter how hard and unrelenting it might seem. All would be good, as long as I had this.

I see more in athletics than a sporting contest. We do not play for glory. We do not even play for the win. We play simply for play's own sake, for the joy of it, for the pain of it, for the transcendent fleeting moments that pass like beauty glimpsed out the corner of our eye, and are remembered like a distant magical childhood, and that is enough. That is the merit of sport. That, I think, is why I run.

For results from the meet, which was cut short due to inclement weather, see <http://running.caltech.edu/track.php>

Photo courtesy of Mark Eichenlaub

Dear Editors:

Who Wants Traditional Conservatism

In a previous edition of *The California Tech*, Brian Hanley decried the actions of President Bush and other Republican leaders and called for a return to "true conservatism." Here I would like to explain why I think traditional conservatism is an overall regressive step for modern society.

Conservatives like to identify their political roots with the "fore fathers" of this country. I cannot testify as to whether or not this is appropriate, but if it is I do not find it surprising. The political leaders of two centuries ago lived in a largely agrarian society with abundant land in which almost anyone (more precisely any white male) could be largely self-sufficient. That is, in such an environment one can often trace a significant portion of his or her consumption directly to his or her labor, and the resources that could be developed by labor were widely available. In such a world, a meddling government appears as an infringement upon an otherwise individually empowering society (again, for white men); in particular a society that appears to justly award labor with wealth. Indeed, the "fore fathers" had direct experience with some of the negative consequences of powerful government, as the British crown and its corporations actively sought to divert the wealth and resources of the American colonies in order to advance the interests of other members of the empire.

Traditional conservatives stick to the ideal that a large government is an infringement upon personal empowerment, but society has changed dramatically in the meantime. The expansion and rise in sophistication of society has made almost all members of society dependent upon others for a means to convert their labor into goods or services for consumption. In addition, the institution of the private corporation has risen to a position of previously unanticipated social and economic power. The effect of these changes is that the self-sufficiency and economic power of individuals has been severely compromised. Very little of a person's consumption is directly related to his or her labor, and most income is in the form of wages that are distinct from one's marginal productivity. Indeed, in modern society most individuals are in a position of little power to negotiate their wages, which are set by market forces and policies that are shaped by the decisions of a relatively small population of executives and government leaders. Therefore, although it is true that an expanded government may diminish an individual's personal empowerment; the modern reality is that in the absence of strong government individuals will lose power to the

small number of business leaders whose institutions dominate most modern markets. Whereas the government may be made open and is held accountable for its actions in a democracy, without a strong government the individuals who run private institutions of power need be neither open nor accountable for their behavior.

Indeed, the modern reality is that a stronger, more active government may be a source of great individual empowerment for most members of society. Whereas any individual is powerless to negotiate, for example, the terms of a lease with a large property manager or the production standards for a good produced by a large business, these can be negotiated by involvement within an active government. Regarding economic empowerment, what most people desire most is a stable source of income that fairly

"...without social organization, the consumption of any individual would be limited to about the consumption of typical uncivilized peoples."

rewards their labor. Through history and in modern times very large businesses have used their stronghold on the labor market to stifle the wages of most laborers, while government programs and regulations have been a major force behind the development of what semblance of fair compensation exists in modern society.

Who loses power when government becomes more expansive? It is those who partake in the power of private institutions, and the wealthy who invariably must pay for government. These are usually the same people, and it makes sense that they view government as an uncontrolled "entitlement" program: their wealth protects them from any direct social dependency. (However they depend upon social structures to organize others to produce, and utilities to externalize costs of production, in order to generate and perpetuate their wealth, an important qualification I will address below.) However they propagate this idea to the general public, and it is a significant reason that traditional conservatives compose such a large percentage of Americans. This works because although it is very difficult to compellingly address to what extent any individual benefits from government relative its cost to him or her, it is natural for people to feel they pay more than their fare share, since government provides public services while individuals consume goods privately.

However, there is a perspective that I think few people share, but that I think is entirely

appropriate. This perspective is to recognize that without social organization, the consumption of any individual would be limited to about the consumption of typical uncivilized peoples. This is very low compared to the consumption of most Americans, and so invariably most Americans must admit they owe the vast majority of their wealth and standard of living to social organization. The government, meanwhile, is the institutionalization of social organization, and in this sense every American owes the majority of his or her income to whatever social needs are expressed by government. This of course should not stop people from seeking a government that more efficiently provides the public services that allow for such high standards of living, but it does contradict the sense of entitlement people have toward their personal wealth.

Thus traditional conservatism, that is an ideology that seeks a more limited government as its own desirable end, is outmoded. It is not true that a more limited government is necessarily more empowering for most individuals, and it is not true that government necessarily draws unfairly upon the resources of society. Indeed, it seems the greatest overall domestic progress historically coincides with increases in the purview of democratic government. Again, this does not mean that all government functions are desirable or optimum, but it does mean that an ideology seeking limited government for its own sake is void any purpose directly related to domestic progress.

In my mind, a significant demonstration of the utility of government programs has been the inability of Republicans to significantly diminish the federal budget. This is signal to the fact that every government program either benefits or is seen as progressive to at least some Republican constituency. It is also signal to the likely possibility that, as I've explained, the benefits of government are more widespread than are typically perceived. Indeed, I have suggested that the major effect of at least some government functions has been to greatly enhance the wealth of the wealthiest of society, since it is painfully obvious that they live within means that are thousands of times beyond that of any truly self-sufficient (read isolated) person. It seems in face of this reality, the Republican strategy has been to continue with the apparently beneficial government programs and simply allow those who benefit most from the organization of society to pay less for its maintenance.

Sincerely,
Michael Salem
Caltech graduate student

ago for fear of offending its readership. It is a strongly right-wing paper in Denmark, sort of like the New York Post, and definitely had no qualms about offending its Muslim readers' sensibilities. Not for nothing did one of the cartoons consist of a little Danish-Iranian boy who had written on a chalkboard in Farsi, "Jyllands-Posten's editors are a bunch of reactionary provocateurs". I just ask that people take time to consider the complexities of the situation and not dismiss it as a one-dimensional "Muslims hate freedom of speech" affair. They only have problems when it is applied differentially.

Sincerely,
Noah Rahman
Caltech '09, Ruddock

A World of Discrimination

BY: JOSEPHINE SUH

When soon to be ex-Harvard President Lawrence Summers said that there are "issues of intrinsic aptitude" involved in the low representation of women in science and engineering, it caused a big uproar in academia and in the outside world. His defenders argued that his hypothesis was a perfectly valid explanation that could account for observed discrepancies in performance between men and women, that Summers should be applauded for his audacity in stepping out of the usual boundaries of political correctness. Detractors, on the other hand, pointed at an increase in women's participation in the sciences over the past few decades, which came about as various efforts were made to eliminate discrimination. Though the brouhaha was over last year, it seems to have played a role in Summers' recent resignation. To that, I say, good riddance. But the controversy surrounding the actual issue deserves our far deeper attention.

At Caltech, where women make up roughly 30 percent of undergraduate and graduate students, and 10 percent of the faculty, the under-representation of women is, surprisingly, a non-issue most of the time. "Everyone agrees that women face discrimination in science and engineering. The foremost task in front of us, then, is to eliminate such discrimination."

Are women really at a natural disadvantage when it comes to the sciences? One thing is certain: there is no concrete evidence that suggests "yes" as an answer. Yes, there may be more variance in high school boys' SAT math scores than that for girls. But so what? If there are socialization factors working against girls' performance, they would certainly have had time to take effect by the time both sexes reach high school. Yes, on average, women may have better linguistic skills, and men, spatial skills. But isn't math a logical, and therefore, linguistic enterprise, as much as it is a visual enterprise? On the other hand, there is overt and covert discrimination occurring at every stage of a woman's life, discouraging her from attaining the highest levels of achievement in science and engineering. They range from Barbies that squeak "Math is hard!" to colleagues who can't bring themselves to see her as an equal.

Happy and satisfied in our own little bubble, it is easy to turn a blind eye to the real discrimination working against women in schools, workplaces, and that's right, on our very campus. To the guy at a certain math camp in the now oh so faraway East Coast, who called me, the lone female in the research group, "stupid" for no reason; you are not the only example.

A "Report on Women at Caltech," commissioned by President Baltimore in 1999, documents the difficulties women faculty face in getting tenure at Caltech. I quote, "Several women have had to fight for their tenure, which has unfortunately led to lingering perceptions that are harmful to the culture at Caltech; these women no longer feel that they have much credibility with the administration and therefore, do not have as much of a stake in Caltech's success. [...] Another perception among some women faculty members is that the tenure process at Caltech is unnecessarily secretive and may be biased against women, thereby forcing the women to be more combative during the process."

One does not need to look as far as the faculty to discover an eerie trend of complacency with the status quo. An often echoed sentiment among Caltech students is that of pride in our affirmative action-free admissions process. One line of thought

goes that the infamous 2:1 ratio of the sexes is evidence of fair, unbiased admissions. There is no doubt that the admissions office evaluates each applicant on an objective basis, but it is time we asked the question, is the ratio a necessary consequence of non-affirmative admissions? The numbers suggest we can be doing better. On a national level, half of all undergraduate degrees in science and engineering in 2001 were earned by women. Taking that as an indicator of the level of women's interest in those fields, it doesn't take a lot to see that better outreach to female high schools students could result in a more balanced ratio at Tech.

The admissions office recently revealed that buying the names of all SAT high scoring individuals, not just those that explicitly put down science as their field of interest, and providing them with information about Caltech, greatly increased the number of applicants for the class of 2010. When we are making such an effort to reach out to the general audience, it is only right that we pay more attention to all the female students who will undoubtedly go on to major in science and engineering, but do not apply and enroll at Tech at the same rate as similar-minded male students.

Now the lingering question: Are women really at a natural disadvantage when it comes to the sciences? One thing is certain: there is no concrete

evidence that suggests "yes" as an answer. Yes, there may be more variance in high school boys' SAT math scores than that for girls. But so what? If there are socialization factors working against girls' performance, they would certainly have had time to take effect by the time both sexes reach high school. Yes, on average, women may have better linguistic skills, and men, spatial skills. But isn't math a logical, and therefore, linguistic enterprise, as much as it is a visual enterprise? On the other hand, there is overt and covert discrimination occurring at every stage of a woman's life, discouraging her from attaining the highest levels of achievement in science and engineering. They range from Barbies that squeak "Math is hard!" to colleagues who can't bring themselves to see her as an equal.

Given the lack of evidence, Summers' suggestion is more a wild speculation than a likely hypothesis. Indeed, to go about proving it, one would have to get hold of a great number of newborn babies, equally distributed in sex, preferably within a few weeks of their birth, and be able to gauge their future capacities to do science and engineering.

The conclusion to be drawn from all this is most convenient: such an experiment is unnecessary. Everyone agrees that women face discrimination in science and engineering. The foremost task in front of us, then, is to eliminate such discrimination. After that has been accomplished, women may or may not have achieved equal representation. But there is no reason to arrive at a hasty conclusion before, or even after, since the very notion that women, in general, are somehow less capable than men, creates and preserves discrimination.

Josephine can't stop hating Barbies and Larry Summers. E-mail her at suh@caltech.edu or the Editors of *The Tech* at tech@caltech.edu to share your complaints.

Dear Editors:

Jacob King was largely correct in deeming the cartoon controversy a freedom of speech issue. But I think some subtleties here have been ignored. The only people who have the right to make the freedom of speech argument in this case are Americans, certainly not Europeans, who censor to within an inch of its life anything associated with Nazis or the Holocaust. Meanwhile, Muslims are left baffled as offensive cartoons to them are construed as free speech while anti-Semitic hate speech is redacted.

I certainly am not justifying the violence that resulted from this cartoon controversy; that was the work of Muslim governments

and political parties looking to score points with the 'street,' and neither am I anti-Semitic nor in favor of Holocaust denial; most of these revisionists are blithering idiots. But when one censors all their literature, it just adds credence to their lunatic ravings about conspiracy theories. (The same goes for Muslim countries and censoring anti-Islamic writings; regrettably, they still have far to go down the road of public tolerance. It is Europe's job to set an example and not stoop to tit-for-tat tactics.) A free society airs its dirty laundry, and doesn't fear it.

Furthermore, Jyllands-Posten, the Danish newspaper responsible for all this, rejected a submission of cartoons treating Jesus in much the same manner two years

Bitches is Hoes

كفر قحبهن (Infidels is Bitches)

BY: HERSCHEL MUKHERJEE

Author's Note: I am not a terrorist. Although this country is bitches, I don't want (nor endorse) its destruction—leave me alone at airports. On a more serious note, I spent the days after 9/11 with friends who lost one or both parents in the towers, and it does suck. I'm not completely heartless.

So let me start where any rational individual would, with the four greatest events in modern American history—9/11. Now for most of the people that died, that sucks. But as unfortunate as that may be, America certainly did have it coming—it was our turn. And now everyone is going on about "The War Against Terror" (or incidentally, TWAT)—which is complete bullshit. If this was the first large scale terrorist attack, maybe I'd be okay with this so-called "war"—but alas, thousands of people have died before—just not Americans. But as soon as this country gets attacked, it needs everyone to help—if they don't, it protests them. What if every country we didn't help boycotted us? What if India stopped shipping us a constant supply of doctors and 7-11 operators after the US didn't help with Kashmir?

The point is, terrorism has always been a global problem which the US has barely acknowledged—until it affected us at home. And it's not even that it affected us at home—it's that it was done by foreigners—by brownish people. Remember

Oklahoma City? Did we start persecuting white people at Ryder rental locations? I didn't start calling my white friends terrorists after "4/19"—maybe you did.

And even now, it is not a truly global issue—the first thing we hear about bombings in Karachi or elsewhere is how many Americans were killed. Does that number really matter more than the hundreds of other people killed? The events we do hear about where zero Americans were killed—the tsunami, the earthquake in Pakistan, Darfur, Rwanda—involve hundreds of thousands of deaths. 9/11? Less than 3000 people. Even slaves were 60% of a person—but this country has taken several different ethnic groups and reduced them to less than 2% of a human.

And when terrorism finally came around to this country, America sat around for a full two weeks, tail between its legs, licking its wounds. At the same time, the U.S. is one of the countries best equipped to deal with such attacks—a strong infrastructure, large (if overextended) military—yet things just came to a halt. Why? Now 9/11 has a special name—Patriot Day. Who the fuck names a date because of an act of terrorism? Iraqis don't go around shouting "Allah aleik Allah" after a bombing, but here its all "God Bless America" this, and "TWAT" that. But for the other 364 days of the year, who really cares about 9/11, other than those unfortunate enough to have lost loved ones in the attacks?

Then there's Osama—the most

brilliant and charismatic leader on the face of the planet. He who, with a single series of air strikes (how many did the US need in Baghdad?) brought his wrath upon us. And what a wrath it was—for almost an entire month, radio and television broadcasts consisted of entirely news, and brought the infrastructure of "the world's most powerful nation" to a screeching halt. Yes, the first couple of days not seeing the towers over Manhattan were strange, perhaps even filled with terror. But after that, once the country still refused to get over itself, I began to see the true genius of that man.

Not that I agree with al-Qaeda's jihad by any means—much like I do not agree with America's TWAT. Both are extremely selfish and thoughtless ideals of destruction. Yet this brilliant artist, whose latest releases always make the top 10 at al-Jazeera, noted that 9/11 cost al-Qaeda around \$500 000, while the US pumped \$500 billion into Bush's TWAT. Morally correct? No. But certainly efficient, which is much better than can be said for this country.

Write for The Tech

If you are interested in working for *The Tech*, feel free to attend our weekly meetings on Fridays from noon to 1PM at the Broad Cafe; however, our March 17th meeting is postponed until March 27th due to spring break.

If we print your material, we will pay you up to the amounts listed below (at our discretion). Email submissions to tech@caltech.edu.

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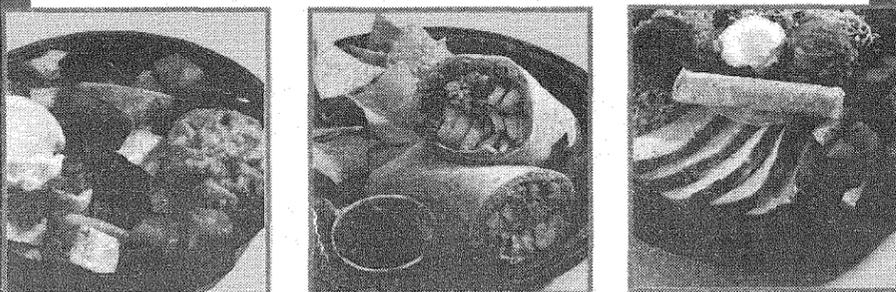
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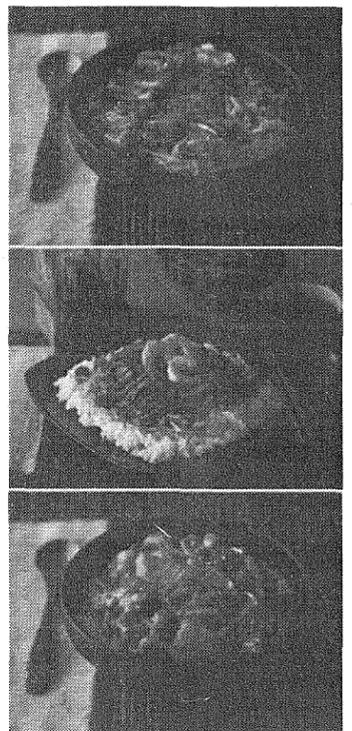
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Represent, Beaver Style

BY: HAMILTONY FALK

What do you think are the most pressing needs Caltech has right now? Is it several million dollars to fix the budget, or more female students, or more pictures of Tech humor columnists not wearing a shirt? No, no, and that's very flattering, but no. What we really need is to upgrade our mascot to something we can take pride in, something with a little more confidence, a tad more panache, and significantly more razor sharp teeth.

Our current mascot, the beaver, may be one of the best animal engineers, but the list of other mascots it could beat in a fight is slim: smaller beavers, trees¹ and sometimes poets, assuming they're the Walt Whitman ("Clear and sweet is my soul, but the only sport I do is bowl") type, not the William Blake ("Tyger! Tyger! burning bright, WE MUST PROTECT THIS HOUSE!")² kind.

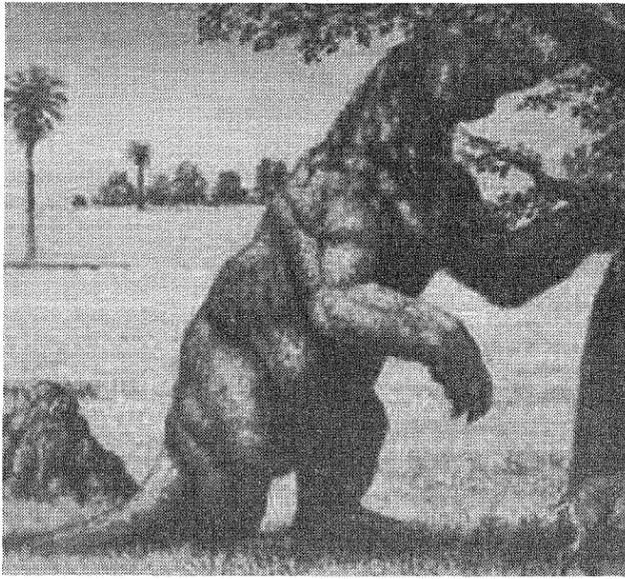
Unfortunately many people think that the beaver accurately represents Caltech, since it builds dams, eats something that no other living creature considers food and is required to take five terms of physics even if it is majoring in biology. Another problem with changing the mascot is that most of the good ones are already taken by other schools, and we don't want to be copy cats³.

Surprisingly, the Delta State Fighting Okra is also already in use, by Delta State in fact. I considered the platypus, since it is similar to a beaver, except it can shoot lightning out of its tail and use 'psychic' attacks to defeat its enemies, but would you want to be represented by a mammal that lays eggs?

I also thought of the noble Bear as a possible mascot, especially since I already own a bear suit⁴. This idea also turned out to be unworkable because negotiations with the bear union stalled. You just can't negotiate with those bears, with their socialist closed

shop policy; all they care about is profits, profits and delicious berries.

Clearly our options are very



A creature unspoiled by modern civilization

limited. This is why I was pleased to see CNN.com mention a 'Jurassic Beaver' which I assume was much more like a dinosaur than the current version, although due to time constraints I only read the headline.

While this version of the beaver no longer exists, it is clearly ok to use prehistoric or imaginary beasts that don't exist anywhere near where the team the represent plays, like the Toronto Raptors, the L.A. Lakers or the Utah Jazz.

Velociraptors have been extinct in Canada for a long time⁵, L.A. is in fact a desert, and lacks lakes, and people in Utah say Jazz makes them uncomfortable⁶. Clearly a creature that existed millions of years ago is perfectly acceptable for a mascot. Let me describe this 'mega-beaver' as CNN would have called it if I'd written the article.

It is approximately 25 feet in length, and weighs about 900 pounds (which is roughly equivalent to 25 meters long and weighing about 900 kilograms). It has

razor sharp fangs, claws that can disembowel a stegosaurus with a single swipe, and it can knock enemies over with a shock wave by slapping its tail on the ground. These mega-beavers are still engineering animals, except that the

laser and Uranium enrichment plants⁷.

They really are the perfect mascot for Caltech. Imagine the fear we could strike into the hearts of our enemies by revealing that we were no longer represented by a cute fuzzy animal, but by a gigantic, vicious creature with huge teeth and probably a history of convictions for petty crime. They would likely respond by winning the vast majority of games they played against us, but at least we could make some awesome t-shirts.

So as a student body let's not celebrate too soon about our defeat of the seven day board program, but instead turn our energies towards convincing the administration to make a change where it really matters. Caltech doesn't just want a mega-beaver mascot;⁸ Caltech needs a mega-beaver mascot.

(Note: There is a painting depicting the so called 'mega-beaver' near the west entrance of Arms, or at least something that I call the mega-beaver)

¹ This is why Stanford never plays us in anything. They're afraid, and

also Division I, not III.

² This is an actual quote by William Blake before the 1781 NFL Europe 'World Bowl' against the Lord Tennyson's Goliaths, in which he recorded a game saving tackle of William Wordsworth on the one yard line, now known in NFL Europe Lore as "The Tackyl"

³ The Copy Cats are the official mascot of Penn State-Allentown.

⁴ Did you know that bear suit can be rearranged to spell b'ar suite, which is how they pronounce Bear in the theme to Davy Crockett, and a homonym for Sweet. By reading this footnote, you've brought shame upon your ancestors.

⁵ Dinosaurs are cold blooded, and hence cannot survive in icy climes of Canada.

⁶ Apparently Utah is not a state that appreciates the Saxophone. In addition, there are absolutely no minorities of any kind living there.

⁷ Some claim that James Bond's nemesis S.P.E.C.T.R.E. actually based many of their plots on the actions of these early cousins of the modern beaver.

⁸ What do you call half an intestine? A Semi-Colon!

Dystopia Minutes

BY: PARVATHY MENON

1. Ricketts held their second annual Bake-A-Thon this weekend. Alex Sheive wins first place with his original "Mrs. And Mr. Butterbopkins's Q-T Glee Cake (veggie kosher)".

2. Page-Lloyd tensions have risen slightly in the last week. After a ceasefire, the Pageboys launched their Lynch-A-Lloydie night. Unfortunately, they were too drunk to tell who were the Lloydies and accidentally killed Peter Foley. The Darbs have cast aside their tie-died peace phlowers and taken up arms. Expect bloodshed next week.

3. The Rudds declare that Dr. Nate Lewis was actually a Rudd and has been faking Lloydiness out of Rudd-shame. Distracted and deranged, the Rudd Budds are lashing out with fire. The charred remains of Gates 22 cries from the grave. Prevent the massacre. Call x5000 if you see a Rudd.

4. In an effort to boost their image as the Inter-Friendship-Hovse, Fleming has decided to abandon their characteristic Red and will change their Color to Poopy Brown-Black: "the color that absorbs, the color that accepts, the color that loves."

5. Avery President Erik declares that being a hoVse sucks.

And that hoVses should no longer exist. Expect to be nuked next week. The SAC can fit 800. Reverse pick order; frosh and attractive Techers get first bid.

6. Announcement from the BoC Chair: a special bylaw states that the Honor Code does not apply on non-prime days and during nuclear winter - go wild next week, guys!

7. The newly confirmed Force is strong at Caltech. It appears that we are the dark side but whatever. Training in use of this Force has been charged to the Moles. All Padawan applicants should turn in their forms to Hell.

8. Please welcome our new President of Caltech, "Dr. of Hot" Candi B. In case you missed her inaugural address, here is an excerpt: "C is for Tech, C is for Cheerleading. Trust in Jesus."

9. Science has been discontinued. God appeared in the RF courtyard last night. Declared that Science was a Practical Joke that He doesn't feel like doing anymore. In response, Dr. Candi has to rename the Institute to the CalGod Devotional Scenter.

10. The assassination attempt on Dr. Candi was thwarted. The assassin appears to be a member of the underground "Sloan/Bridge Guard-ang."

dams they build are hydroelectric, to supply electricity to their giant

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