

## New Elephant Bench in Honor of the Former Dean

BY: VIBHA LALJANI

The contributions of former Dean Jean-Paul Revel to undergraduate life were honored in a ceremony put together by the BoD on June 2. The BoD presented Prof Revel with an 'elephant bench' to celebrate his energy and his commitment to undergrads.

Former UDaL, Ryan Farmer said, "The idea originated with Galen Loram's BoD when Prof. Revel announced that he was planning on retiring. Shaun Lee (then UDaL) knew Stuart Freed, a teacher at Polytechnic (the local high school) who also taught the Ceramics class and found out that he was a very gifted woodworker.

The two then came up with an initial sketch. Stuart needed to take some time off, and so when I became UDaL, I worked with Stuart to further revise the plans. The design came from a speech Dean Revel gave to the class of 2005 when they first entered where he described students as 'elephants that would one day turn into swans'. This analogy stuck in everyone's minds and influenced the initial design (a bench with an elephant). Stuart designed everything once we had communicated our desire to have a bench with an elephant."

Caltechers kept up their tradition of being unconventional even in the 'unveiling' of the bench. Administrators and students sat on the bench with Prof. Revel and admired its comfort and beautiful art work, raising the 'veil'.

The elephant bench now resides on the second floor of the Cen-



Former Dean of Students Jean-Paul Revel admires the new bench with current Associate Dean of Students Barbara Green.

ter for Student Services, which houses the deans' office, as well. It serves as a symbol of the work and effort put in by Prof. Revel, from the deans' office, which was his home.

A lot of planning and work has

been put into designing the elephant bench. In addition to Stuart, who did the exquisite artwork, Ryan Farmer helped significantly with the planning. Current UDaL, Nathan Donnellan, inherited this responsibility when the ASCIT

acquired new leadership.

Prof. Revel was Caltech's Albert Billings Ruddock Professor of Biology. He received his B.Sc. from University of Strasbourg in 1949, followed by Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1957. His

association with Caltech as a Professor of Biology began in 1971-78. He was the Dean of Students from 1996-2005.

The ceremony was held at 11:30 am in the Center for Student Services.

## New Speed Bumps Effectively Protect Pedestrians

BY: CHANDRA BARNETT

When Campus Planning last month laid down a new set of speed bumps on Holliston Avenue, the arresting black-and-yellow strips drew the eyes of more than drivers.

With cost-cutting measures in place, new development on campus is viewed with some suspicion, and many have wondered why these speed bumps are necessary.

The truth is that the usually calm and slow-moving traffic on Holliston Avenue has become quite heavy at certain times of the day, especially during the morning and evening rush hours, when impatient drivers use the San Pasqual-Holliston route to avoid congestion at the intersection of Hill and Del Mar.

Additionally, the placement of the Blacker, Ricketts, and Dabney Mods means that there is an unusual amount of foot traffic moving across Holliston at all hours - with Holliston Ave now separating these residents from classes, food, and friends, there is a steady

stream of students crossing at the Avery Circle and P-Plant, not all of whom are necessarily paying any attention to vehicular traffic.

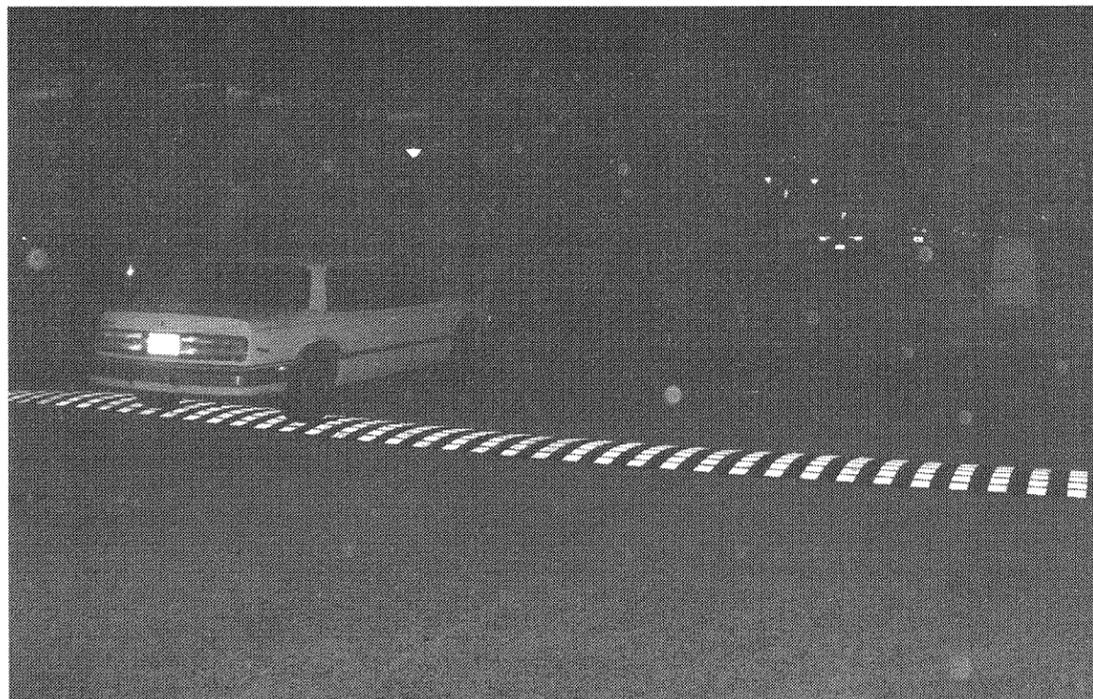
Since this traffic is at times moving at speeds of up to 45mph - quite a bit more than the 5mph speed limit stated for all campus roads - a number of close calls have been reported or witnessed by students and staff, and some action was deemed necessary.

After reviewing the possible methods for improving traffic control, Gregg Henderson of Parking and Security determined that self-enforcing, inexpensive speed bumps were the best choice.

By placing them on either side of the two marked crosswalks on Holliston, the department is able to provide protected pedestrian crossings.

Due attention was paid to the bottom line; Henderson explained that the plastic speed bumps were chosen primarily as a more cost-effective option than the more permanent asphalt.

As an added advantage, however, the speed bumps are modular and can be moved, something



This car enjoys one of the new speed bumps installed on Holliston Avenue to encourage safe driving.

which has already proven its worth. When the speed bumps were first laid down, they ran from the center of the road to one curb, across the lane of travel. Imme-

diately, however, clever Caltech cutters-through began avoiding the expensive new equipment by crossing into the opposing lane in a more dangerous slalom maneuver.

The modular nature of the bumps meant that work crews were able to easily extend the strips across the entire roadway.

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## Speed Bumps Fairly Cost Effective

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 removing any incentive for drivers to disregard the usual conventions of behind-the-wheel behavior.

The cost of the entire installation, a moderate \$7500, was paid for using a percentage of the new revenues generated by the paid parking program. These funds are earmarked for general safety improvements on campus, and Henderson discussed several other past and future projects to which they have been applied.

The North Wilson parking structure has had its yellow sodium-vapour lighting replaced with brighter, more efficient fluorescent, an improvement which is slated to be extended to all of the parking structures on campus, and another plastic speedbump was installed several months ago on the ground floor of Holliston.

Further work will also be done in the parking structures to improve traffic flow and reduce the speed of vehicles around the blind curves present in the older

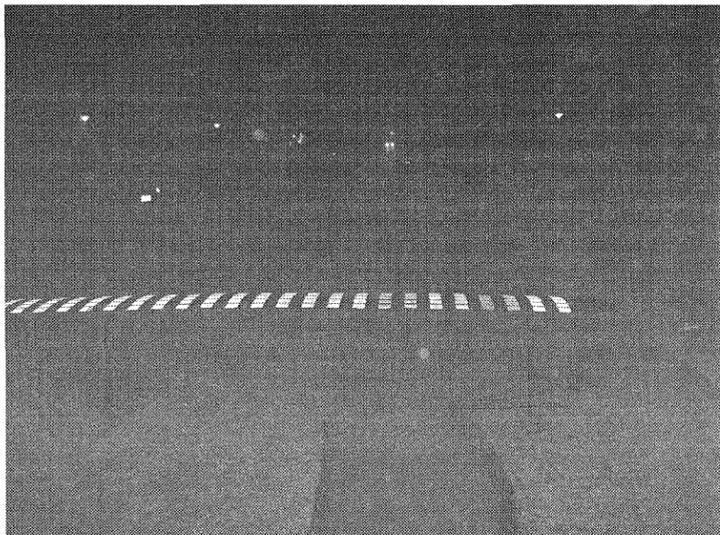


Photo by David Chen

In the foreground is a speed bump that spans both lanes. In the background is another speed bump that spans the entire space to prevent drivers from dangerously dodging speed bumps.

structures.

Although speed bumps are not an option here due to the unsupported roadbed in the upper lev-

els of the structure, Henderson is exploring other options to make these areas safer for both vehicles and pedestrians.

## The Outside World

BY: HAMILTON FALK

### Senate Stops Gay Marriage Amendment

The Senate blocked a constitutional amendment Wednesday that would ban same-sex marriages, a move that Democrats have described as a political ploy to evade more important issues. The bill had the support of Bush and 49 senators, but was 11 votes shy of the 60 needed to pass. Same-sex marriage first became legal in Massachusetts in 2004, but a constitutional amendment would trump any state law allowing gay marriage. Massachusetts Democrat Senator Edward Kennedy called the bill a "cynical attempt to score political points by overriding state courts and intruding into individuals' private lives."

### CIA Accused of Prisons

The Council of Europe, a human rights group, criticized the CIA for allegedly bringing prisoners to secret prisons in third-world countries to interrogate them. Washington has rejected these claims, saying the allegations lack any substantiation; Poland and Romania have also rejected the allegations, as they were pointed to as hosts for the prisons.

### Terror Suspects Seized in Canada

Seventeen terror suspects were seized in Canada last week, one of which had plans to behead the prime minister. The members of the group are accused of planning attacks on the Canadian parliament building and a landmark in Toronto. Twelve were men, and

five teenagers: all were Muslims and Canadian citizens.

### China Blocks English Google Site

Most Chinese internet users have been blocked from the main Google.com site, which has been replaced with Google.cn, the Chinese language version of the search engine. The uncensored international site was blocked throughout China on May 31, after growing reports of users unable to access the site. Google is not the only company to comply with China's censorship to gain access to its markets—Microsoft, Yahoo, and Cisco Systems are part of the technology circle with a share in the Chinese market.

Compiled from [bbc.uk.org](http://bbc.uk.org), [cnn.com](http://cnn.com)

## ASCIT Minutes for May 31, 2006

ASCIT Board of Directors Minutes from the Side Room in Chandler

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

Present Officers: Todd Gingrich, Jean Sun, Vickie Pon, Jonathan Senn, Chris Gonzales, RJ Krom, Chris Gonzales, Nathan Donnellan, Chris Watson

Absent Officers: Craig Montuori

Guest: Rebecca Adler

1. Faculty Lunch Request  
\* Deepak Mishra, Gabe Cohn, and John Leichty requested via email for funding to take Prof. Jerry Pine out to lunch at the Ath. This prof-lunch funding was approved by a vote (6Y/0N/0A).

2. Donutman Driving  
\* Because RJ has been the driver to get ASCIT donuts, he will be reimbursed for gas by the end of this term (rather than the end of the year as has been done in the past).

3. Pool Party! (Sat. June 3rd)  
\* Rebecca presented the

budget for the upcoming Pool Party Decompression hosted by the Caltech Y, ASCIT, and the GSC. The Caltech Y will be covering costs for food, which will be the largest expense. ASCIT and the GSC were asked to cover lifeguard and movie screening costs for Pirates of the Caribbean, a total of \$400 for each ASCIT and the GSC. A vote was taken to fund the Pool Party \$400 in co-sponsorship of this event: Vote approved (8Y/0N/0A).

4. CRC Reps  
\* RJ submitted for approval a list of 7 CRC representative nominees, each elected in each of the undergrad Houses except Avery (who has not submitted a rep to the CRC Chair, RJ). A vote was taken by the BoD to appoint the following 7 students as representatives on the Conduct Review Committee: Zack Higbee, Cliff Chang, Vibha Laljani, Preetha Sinha, Amit Gandhi, Brandt Belson, and Ben Pederson: Vote approved (8Y/0N/0A).

5. FDaL Update  
\* Gift baskets for the AS-

CIT Staff Award winners will be ordered shortly and distributed next week.

\* The ASCIT Movie Library is all ready to start being in use by the beginning of next fall.

6. ASCIT Publications  
\* Sign-ups for editors for the little t, the Big T, and Totem are up, and hopefully we will soon have editors for these publications next academic year.

7. Elephant Bench  
\* Jean-Paul Revel is available at 11:30 am, Friday, June 2nd for the ASCIT BoD and others to present him with the commemorative elephant bench that was designed for Dr. Revel. Todd and Nate will finalize the location for this bench and the unveiling ceremony within the next couple days.

Happy Summer!!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Vickie Pon  
ASCIT Secretary

## Scholarship Winners

The Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2006-2007 Upper Class Merit Awards. These awards are based on outstanding scholastic achievement, research, and related endeavors.

The Upper Class Merit Awards are made possible through contributions from generous donors who have endowed the competition. Scholarships for the 2006-07 academic year will be provided by the Stuart Foundation, The Wasserman Foundation, the John Stauffer Scholarship (earmarked for Chemistry/Chemical Engineering majors), and the Rosalind W. Alcott Scholarship.

The Committee awarded nearly one million dollars to this year's recipients. The following students will receive awards ranging from approximately \$5,000 to \$37,600 for the next academic year:

### Carnation Merit Award (Stuart Foundation)

Jonathan Arnold  
Robert Barish  
Elah Bozorg-Grayeli  
Angela Chang  
David Chen (\*)  
Evelyn Cheung  
Csilla Felsen  
Daniel Fu  
Ilya Gekhtman  
Yuan Gong  
Mike Grinolds  
Yang Hai  
Kenneth Ho  
Nicholas Hutzler  
Jimmy Jia  
Anthony Kelman  
Wei Li  
Kelly Lin  
Victor Liu  
Po-Ru Loh  
Po-Ling Loh  
Jonathan Malmaud (\*)  
Vivek Narsimhan  
Raluca Ada Popa  
Aditya Rajagopal  
Shafiq Shirinfar  
Rebecca Streit  
Truong-Dzuy Truong-Cao  
Huan Yang  
Jed Yang  
Shawn Yu  
Rumen Zarev  
Yan Zhang  
Ziqing Zhao  
Yifan Zhou

### Caltech Upper Class Merit Award (Wasserman Foundation)

Elette Boyle  
Nathan Chan  
Matthew Fisher  
Todd Gingrich  
Matt Glassman  
Emma Schmidgall  
Michael Spece Ibanez  
Harrison Stein  
Elisabeth Streit  
Zhan Wang  
Kevin Watts

### John Stauffer Merit Scholarship

Kevin Cossel  
Lydia Ng

### Rosalind W. Alcott Merit Scholarship

Yijia Chen  
Benjamin Golub  
Michael Kolodrubetz

\* denotes students who are 2kool 4skool

## Polishing the Bent



Photo courtesy of [http://www.its.caltech.edu/~cstea007/TBP/polishing\\_the\\_bent.htm](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~cstea007/TBP/polishing_the_bent.htm)

The Bent was formerly coated by a brown patina and green corrosion, but Tau Beta Pi members spent four hours sanding and polishing it.

The club decided to polish the Bent because people passing by did not notice what the sculpture was, and the club people will stop to have a closer look now.

The club members who helped with the polishing were President Eddie Truong-Cao, Vice President Steve Gray, Secretary Victor Liu, Treasurer Tony Kelman, James Mao, and

John Xia.

The chapter, California Beta, would like to thank John Van Deusen for advice on polishing the sculpture and Prof. Michael Vivic for serving as the club's faculty advisor.

Tau Beta Pi is the national engineering honor society. Members are elected and initiated during their Junior or Senior year, and eligibility is determined by class rank. Members must be either in the top 1/8 of their Junior engineering class or the top 1/5 of their Senior engineering class.

# Tech Preview New Office Promises Some Noteworthy Features

BY:TOM TSAI

With many of its core software suites entering a new "clear, confident, connected" generation, Microsoft has also been revamping its omnipresent Office franchise and is set to release the 12th edition of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc. in 2007 following the launch of Windows Vista.

Normally, a Microsoft Office launch is nothing special, with the last few editions in a decade or so virtually identical in use and feel to the version before. So this time, Microsoft has decided to redo one of the most popular software suites in the world from the ground up, with a new XML-based document format and a brand new user interface.

Part of the drive to redesign Office came from the sentiment that, as fully as the Office feature set was developed, most Office users were not taking advantage of all the available tools.

So, Microsoft adopted a new "results-oriented" design philosophy which would call for all revisions to reflect faster access to features of the software. The result was Office 2007, which Microsoft released to the general public as a beta on May 23rd -- anyone with a genuine copy of Windows can still obtain it off the Microsoft servers. Although it is still a beta and subject to instability issues and other bugs, I managed to my hands on it and have

been using it ever since.

## The Ribbon and Contextual Tabs

The first noteworthy thing is that they did away with the traditional pull-down menus that obscured all the more specific commands and came up with a larger, more graphics-oriented toolbar called "The Ribbon."

Like the older toolbars, the Ribbon is fully customizable in showing the most commonly-used commands and is grouped in major categories at the bottom.

In a Mac-like way, these commands are displayed in large and pretty graphics to show their purposes. However, the changes are not merely cosmetic and serve important functional purposes.

The most innovative part of the ribbon is the inclusion of tabbed categories at the top. The tabs on the Ribbon display the commands most relevant for each of the task areas in the program and each Office program is reorganized in such a way.

Advanced users who have been running Office for years will find the switch a bit disorienting in the initial moments but will find it quite intuitive.

My personal learning curve didn't take more than a couple of minutes to ramp up. However, new users and users that don't usually take advantage of advanced Office features will find this an eye-opening experience



The ribbon replaces the normal pull-down menu in the new Office's goal of increasing productivity.

and benefit most from this redesign. They will find the Ribbon well laid-out and easy to use.

Remember the strange boxes that just suddenly appear and disappear when adding pictures or tables? Well, those toolbars now exist as Contextual Tabs in Office 2007, appearing when certain elements are called upon.

So, the commands for editing a chart do not appear until a chart appears in a spreadsheet and the user is focusing on modifying it. Perhaps the best part of this feature is the elimination of desktop clutter and taking advantage of the toolbar area for tabs.

Much like what Mozilla Firefox did for tabbed browsing, the Ribbon and Contextual Tabs help layer the desktop space and allow the Office experience to be cleaner and easier to access.

## Live Preview and Galleries

Galleries and Live Preview are perhaps my favorite part about the revamped version of Office and really translates to Microsoft's mantra of "results."

Many, many functions are grouped into Galleries, from the page margins to chart styles to

headers and footers, all in pre-formatted and pre-designed templates to choose from.

This set of potential simplifies the process of producing professional looking work but traditional dialog box interfaces are still available for custom-tweaking of the look and feel of a document, spreadsheet, and presentation.

To enhance this Gallery feature, the developers at Microsoft instituted Live Preview. Just like how it is named, this technology previews the "results" of applying an editing or formatting change as the user moves the pointer over the list presented in any Gallery.

It is new and dynamic, and is perhaps the best practical change in Office. Simply rolling over the fonts in the typeset list allows a user to view in real time how the document will look differently with the selected change, and is instituted in just about every Gallery-type list pane presented in Office.

## New File Formats

Structurally, Office is vastly changed as well. In a vast and controversial step forward, Office's new file format for saving

documents is the new Microsoft Office Open-XML format (\*.DOCX), which is similar to Sun Microsystems's OpenDocument format (\*.ODF) in its speed, compressibility, and security features.

Some have viewed this change as an attempt to derail the successful OpenOffice project despite Microsoft's proclamation of this format as open source and a drive to versatility.

Even beyond the compositing format, Office 2007 users get to save in Adobe PDF format, precluding the need to have Adobe Acrobat to create PDF print documents.

Adobe Systems has since complained extensively over this new feature set, especially since Office has also given users the option to save documents in the XPS format (formerly termed 'Metro'), which is a print format that provides similar capabilities to the PDF format.

A legal battle between Adobe and Microsoft is brewing in the horizon, so these features may or may not be included in the final version of Office 2007. My initial impressions of the PDF converter is that it is quite fast, but not particularly high resolution; creating high-quality PDF documents would still require the use of Acrobat.

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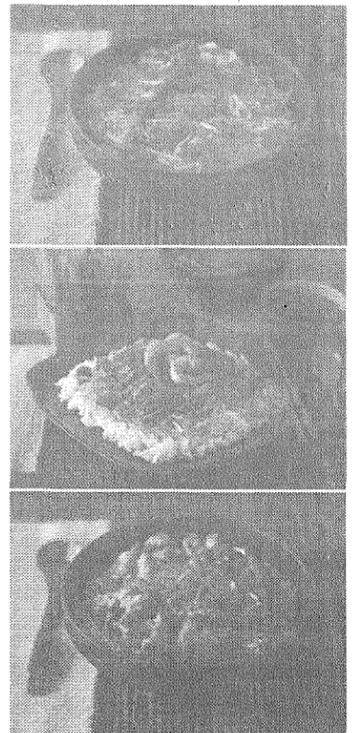
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# Requiem for a Hitchhiker

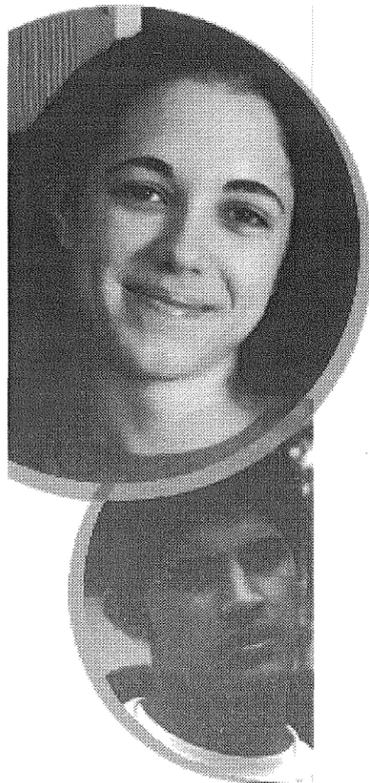
BY: MARK EICHENLAUB

Five years ago (as of when I originally typed this line), Friday, May 11, 2001, was a day which involved many commas(1), as the more punctuational astute of my readers will already have observed. More interestingly, at least for the morbid among us, it was also the day Douglas Adams unexpectedly died(1) of a heart attack(1). I remember that day the way my parents remember the day JFK was shot(2). That is to say, not at all. My parents don't remember anything from the 60's(2), and I do not intend to press them for details as to why.

I had to get on Wikipedia(1) to look up the date of Adams' death. The entire research process, which to this point in the column has revealed between two and thirteen facts, depending on the creativity of your counting algorithm, took about six hours(2), because as always when I look something up on Wikipedia, I proved incapable of restraining myself from clicking all those little blue links scattered throughout the articles. To me those links are like raisins in oatmeal(2), in that they are a vaguely appropriate but imprecise analogy.

Clicking little blue links has become my compulsion. It goes like this: use Wikipedia to research Keynesian economics --> see text "Russian ballerina" underlined in blue(1) --> click on text --> new and even more exciting multimedia-embedded adventures(2).

Back in real life, Wahoo's Fish Taco's underlines their name in blue(1), and once when I walked down Lake Avenue I stopped and punched my fist into the logo on their glass door for half an hour before realizing that I was not on the Internet(2). I was on Candid Camera(2), and according to Nielsen Media Research (a company owned by the Dutch conglomerate VNU(1), and whose rating system is most widely criticized because there is potential bias induced because sample families are aware that Nielsen monitors their television viewing(1)), 2.1%(2) of 110.2 million(1) American television-holding households would, after a three month production lag period, laugh mirthfully at my Teacher's doofusness from the sagging, termite-infested lair of their love seats while throwing their leftover Domino's Buffalo Wings bones



A smiling and non-smiling Caltech student.

to the pet iguana and screaming at each other to take out the damn trash already so help us God(2). (He is available for assistance in this area every Sunday morning at 9am, 8 central, just call the toll free number at the bottom of your screen.)

Triumphs of my personal life aside, I began writing this article as an homage to Douglas Adams. He was undoubtedly the Caltech community's most-beloved humor-science-fiction-five-book-trilogy writer(2). But when I started writing three weeks ago ("I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by."(1)), I got no further than a the first sentence before I realized I had very little original insight. I solved this difficulty by learning, after a three-hour orgy of purplifying random Internet links, that Braddock, Pennsylvania is located ten miles above the mouth of the Monongahela River(1), and has a population of 2,912 as of the 2000 census(1).

After continued reckless lane-hopping across the great information superhighway, I alighted at last upon Wikipedia's entry for Caltech. In my professional journalistic opinion, the article lacks the focus characteristic of great writing(2). It includes such irrel-

evant information as "Caltech claims 31 Nobel laureates to its name."(1) and "Caltech is ranked the seventh best university in the nation by U.S. News and World Report,"(1) but I will not hold these tangents against the article, as it would be unfair to require every reporter to adhere to my own high standards(2).

What struck me was that a large portion of the article, as well as many of the external links, dealt with the zany quality of undergraduate life, including Ditch Day, the Caltech-MIT pranks, and Crippling Depression.(1) By comparison, the Other Institute of Technology's page contains just one paragraph on similar material.(1)

But this contrast is not surprising, because Caltech's press releases are an unending inundation of the image of Tech as the land of quirky fun-loving geniuses(1).

"See!" cries Caltech, "our students are happy! They go on 'scavenger hunts, quests, adventures, red-herring searches, and the like'(1)! They are just like Val Kilmer in Real Genius(2)! He is cool(1)! They love it here(?)! They think of it as a giant playground(1)! A playground for math, science, and engineering(1)! Even Jay Leno comes to watch our students do wacky stuff!(1) Hey look there's even an undergrad smiling right over there(2)! Look quick. Oh please please take some photographic evidence of that! These opportunities don't come often(2)!"

It's true. Occasionally a Caltech student smiles(1), but normally this is because commencement is only one week away, and after fourteen terms, three times through Ch1a, and \$72,246 in student loans, he has only one more year to go before he sprouts diploma-wings and flies away on them to a lucrative and spiritually fulfilling career(2). (Haha. Jokes are funny.)

At Caltech, we flaunt our wily, madcap attitude(1). Our newspaper publishes articles detailing our greatest pranks(1). Our bookstore carries two tomes dedicated to them(1). The pranks surrounding the theft of the Fleming Cannon made the front page of the LA Times(1). We tell jokes (mostly about how miserable we are, but hey they're still jokes.(2)) But the emperor has no clothes. I

believe the spirit of the prank is slowly being smothered, both by the extreme academic demands on students, and by the administration's unwillingness to let students express creativity outside of the confines they strictly outline.

"Now you kids go outside and play and have fun," they tell us, "here is a prank budget donated by alumni(1) and you better use it because we need you to look happy and fun-loving(2), but don't violate our alcohol policy(1), and don't play with fire under any circumstances(1), and don't write things we don't like on the walls(1), and don't run around the track naked(2), and clear everything you do with security first(1), and leave a note(1), and don't do anything irreversible(1), and hold my hand while you cross the street(2). Anyone engaging in unapproved acts of whim will be punished."

I have nothing against the administration. They act exactly as I expect, and exactly as I would in their position. But I'm not in their position(2). I'm 21 years old(1). I consider it my social duty to flaunt the lawless, devil-may-care exuberance of my youth in the faces of any authority figures who happen to be nearby. The other students are with me on that, right?

"We shall execute carefully-planned pranks and document our cleverness on a popular website!(1)" we respond to the in-charge-people's admonitions. "We shall send one hundred emails whining to each other if we think the other sides are cheating!(1) We shall form a panel of impartial alumni to score our creativity in an objective manner!(1) We shall spend a day walking around campus in teams wearing identical tee shirts and shoot each other with water guns at the pre-planned hour as proof of our undaunted spontaneity!(1)"

When I look at the gut reactions to the numerous student-faculty clashes over the past two years, I generally see one of two attitudes - indignant anger or apathy. The result is that we come together to compromise only after prolonged and undue strife. Both sides are equally guilty.(2)

This brings me back to Adams. There was an unchained creative mind if ever one existed.(2) The guy even died ironically - having a heart attack while jogging on a treadmill in hopes of preventing a heart attack.(1) We love Adams' memorable one-liners, sure, but the appeal of his books is in sat-

ire, and this satire can not only be entertaining, but also a first step towards resolving conflict.

For example, take Tony Falk's article on cats in the South Houses. He attacked the issue with a wink and a nod to the audience, telling them that, sure, we care that cats won't be allowed and it's upsetting, but also we aren't going to blow our tops about it. I'd like to think if Douglas Adams were a Caltech student today, he'd be conducting a SURF to see if starving dogs would eat CDS food to survive, or building himself a giant treehouse to stake out the land of his \$400 per annum parking spot.

Despite popular opinion, going to college does not have to be an endless battle against The Man.(2) Students, the administration does care what you have to say(2), and in the past years they have created more and more avenues for student-administration communication(1). And to The Man himself, we don't hate you. We just get a little ruffled sometimes, and if you're reasonable with us, chances are pretty good we'll be reasonable back(2). So next time a new pronouncement from the powers that be sends your knee jerking up to your chin, just grab your Wiki-Hitchhiker's Guide, take 42 deep breaths, and Don't Panic.

Sources:

- 1 - The Internet
- 2 - My Imagination

## 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

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

### Maximum Pay

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- Commentary \$20
- Humour \$20
- Good Comics \$15
- Comics \$7
- Photos \$5

## Lamenting the Lack of Interhouse Buffets

BY: KELLY LITTLEPAGE

In reply to Anonymous's article in last week's *Tech* complaining about Fleming's lack of quality food and drink at BFP

While I certainly appreciate your inane attention to detail in describing your epic drink quest at BFP, wouldn't your time be better spent on some more fruitful pursuit? From the sounds of it, you have nothing better to do than stuff your face. Every five minutes you spend pontificating to the *Tech* is one double cheeseburger that goes uneaten. Since you clearly can't incorporate time to socialize into your trying eating/drinking regiment, isn't it a little brass to spend time writing fluff for the *Tech*? I learned this some time ago, which is why I now spend my days locked in my room pounding Jack in the Box.

Quite honestly, I find your diatribe quite reassuring. I went to BFP with some foolish no-

throw down without an éclair in one hand and a crepe in the other? God forbid I spend ten seconds not stuffing my greasy pie

*"Since you clearly can't incorporate time to socialize into your trying eating/drinking regiment, isn't it a little brass to spend time writing fluff for the Tech?"*

tion that I would party hard; you know, with the hard stuff: ice cream and pastries (ala Rud-dock).

You simply couldn't imagine my outrage when I discovered that they weren't serving milkshakes. Honestly, what college party isn't rife with milkshakes? How base of us to omit such an integral part of a "good Tech party" from the spread. I'm glad that there are others in the community who share my anger. I was also entirely disheartened by the total lack of food. How on earth do you people expect me to

hole and dance.

With regards to the bartenders carding, that was rather unfortunate. Asking someone else to get me a drink would have forced some social interaction; I'm just not comfortable with that. I usually come to these things just to stand in the corner armed with that awkward Techer look and a double stacked plate of food. It really irritates me when small talk and conversation gets in the way of my goal. Seriously, could we just dispense with the formalities and start hosting Interhouse

buffets?

I feel that food is by far the most important criterion for assaying a party. As such, I would like to formally apologize to all members of the Caltech community for our lack of sustenance. Rest assured that in future years we'll be sure to reallocate 90% of our budget to pastries, milkshakes, and smoothies.

And for all you "BEvERage" drinkers out there who are just too shy to ask for a little help, we'll station Caltech Counseling Center's finest at the doors. With their support, I'm sure that you too can brave the highly traumatizing experience of talking to someone. Hell, when all the ladies see how suave you are asking for drinks maybe they'll even offer to help you burn off a few calories from that last cookie. Just remember your commitment to that milkshake, and respectfully decline citing your busy eating schedule as the reason.

### The California Tech

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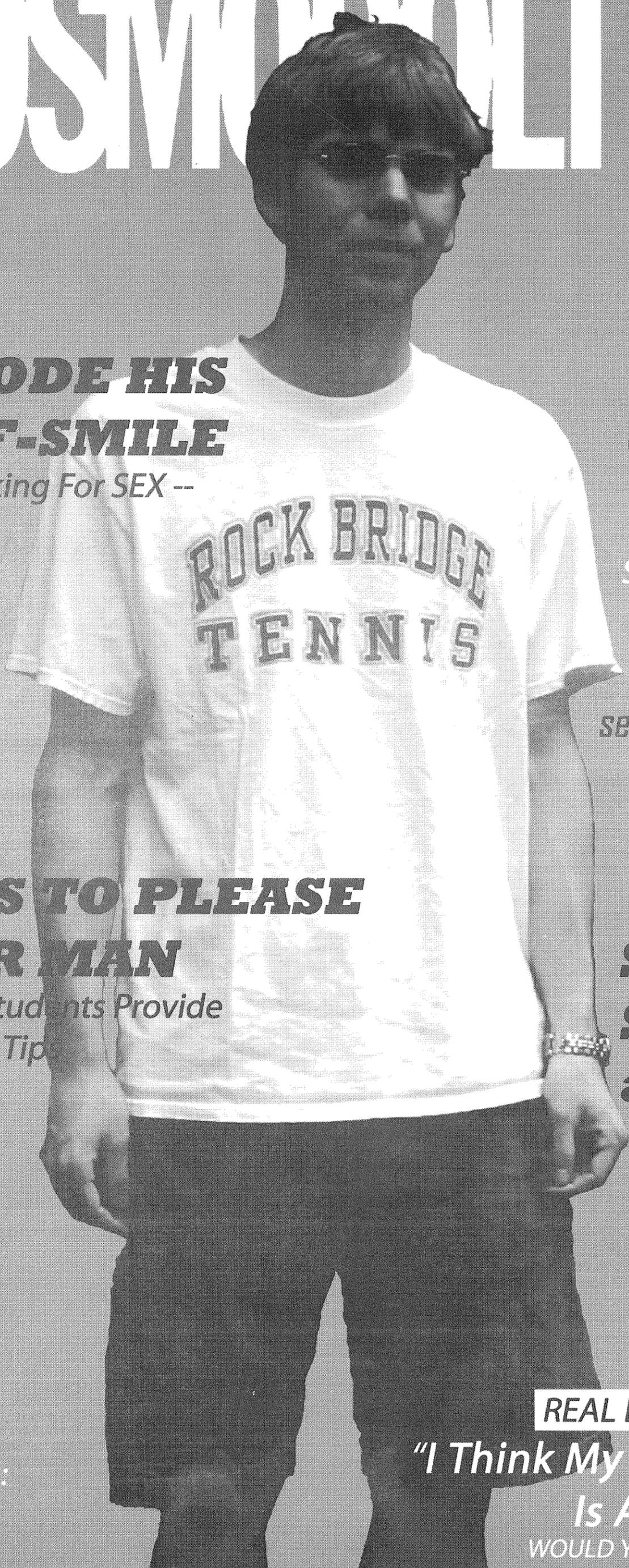
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# COSMOPOLITAN



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*segmentation fault!*

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Is A Murderer"**

WOULD YOU TELL THE COPS?

**WARNING:  
OPERATOR  
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# Time to Lose Weight for Summer

By Tony Falk

It's June, a time of hot days at the beach and hot nights (in lab) and most people want to get in shape to go to the beach. On the other hand, maybe you just want to look good in a lab coat while SURFing. Regardless, almost everyone wants to know the secret to losing a few pounds in a short time. That's why I, and my dedicated research staff, have talked to health care professionals, nutritionists, doctors and beautiful, thin people, and compiled this list of ways guaranteed to help you drop weight and keep it off for long enough to show off in a very, very small bathing suit.

1) Stop eating. It is a well known fact that to lose weight you have to eat fewer calories than you burn, which for most people means eating less. Unfortunately, eating "less" may help you lose weight, but the amount of weight you lose depends on how many calories less you eat, so if you're only cutting back a little bit you'll lose, maybe a pound or two. If you want to lose enough weight that it really shows, you need to drastically reduce your caloric intake, hopefully to zero. This means no eating, and no drinking anything with calories (water is ok!) or otherwise ingesting energy, by chewing gum or photosynthesizing or things of that sort. People will tell you it burns more calories to eat celery than you get from eating it, but that's still calories you're eating. I recommend pretending to eat celery, which burns the calories but saves you from taking them in. Remember, once your body begins starving, it'll turn to your fat reserves and you'll be dropping weight in no time. Remember, eating and then throwing up doesn't count, because your body is selfishly absorbing calories the whole time, and you can't get rid of it all that way!

2) Cut off your left arm. Or if you're left handed, your right arm. An arm weighs a number of pounds, and that's just useless weight, keeping you from looking your best at double digit poundage. Some may argue that a leg weighs more than an arm, but it's hard to walk around without two legs, while having only one arm is hardly a problem in most situations. Moreover, haven't you ever said you'd give your left arm to be as thin as some celebrity/model?

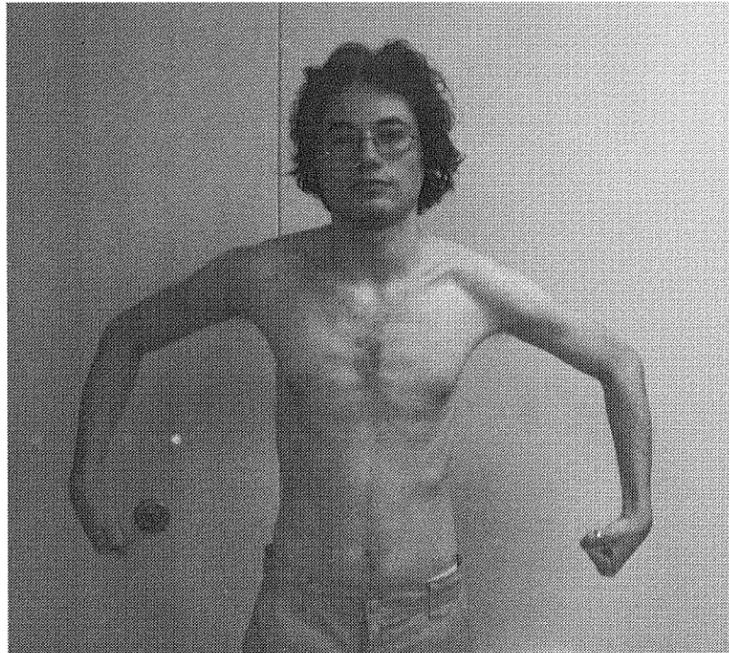
3) Inhale lots of helium. A large portion of the air you breathe is completely useless nitrogen, and you're bringing a lot of air into your body every day. Imagine if you could reduce the weight of that 70 or so percent of air you breathe to less than a third of what you're currently breathing? The trick is to stop breathing in nitrogen and switch to helium. Helium is a noble gas, so you don't have to worry about any of those dangerous reactions, and it can also make your voice sound funny, so there's a double bonus to making the switch. So reduce the weight you get from breathing, and start taking in light helium, instead of that heavy old nitrogen that's weighing you down.

4) Shock yourself with electricity. Another way to burn more calories (in addition to consuming left) is to exercise. The problem with this for most people is that exercise involves unpleasant things such as lifting heavy things or running from place to place. The solution to this is to get the benefits for exercise without voluntarily doing anything at all. Every time you're shocked with electricity your muscles contract, without you having to do anything, burning calories. You can do this while you sleep (assuming you can sleep through incredible amounts of pain) or while doing other activities that aren't made difficult by uncontrollable jerking of your body and short periods of intense pain.

5) Eat healthy and exercise, in the past. One of the best ways to lose weight is to have exercised and eaten healthy in the past. It's too late to start now if you want to get thin in time to get to the beach, but if you had started working out and eating less fat way back in the middle of the winter, you'd be fit and trim. The obvious solution is to build some sort of time machine and go back and convince yourself to start working out. Remember, healthy eating and exercise is the best way to stay healthy, according to 9 out of 10 doctors. The 10th doctor recommends prayer.

This publication, including its financial backers and other supporters, are in no way legally responsible for any physical harm or loss of life that may occur due to following advice from this list, and it is recommended that you discuss any plan to lose excessive amounts of weight with your Doctor. If you have read, touched, or in any way experienced any part of this paragraph, you have waived your right to sue us. But please don't try, because juries tend to ignore non-liability clauses like this one, and give you a hefty cash pay out.

# Topless Man of the Month: Jon Malmaud



## Ways to Please Your Man

1. Hoard free food from conferences for him
2. Introduce him to your younger sister who models for Playboy
3. Switch to Linux for your operating system
4. Learn to love video games almost as much as you love him
5. Wear that sexy "I Feel Lucky" Google T-shirt for those special occasions
6. Farm gold for him on World of Warcraft
7. Agree that direct sunlight only gives you cancer
8. Give him all your free stuff from career fair
9. Make him a delicious meal of ramen, or something else more appetizing than CDS dinner
10. Let him use some of your declining balance
11. Introduce him to one of the hot firefighters on Holliston
12. Fill out his drop card for him
13. Two words: 95 groupies!
14. Buy him Weird Al's new CD and wrap it with duct tape
15. Break into his room, wrap yourself in duct tape, and wait for him to return home
16. Break into his room, wrap his roommate in duct tape, and give him some blue books for his exams
17. Give him pointers on how to do his laundry
18. Play Mortal Kombat in bed (either literally or figuratively)
19. Four words: New Super Mario Brothers!
20. Give him a boot to the head
21. Combine numbers 18 and 20
22. Do his laundry (and skip number 17)
23. Don't rush him while he's gaming—always let him get to a safe spot
24. Complain that this week's set is "long and hard"—and then give him a wink

Q:  
Dear Cosmo,

I'm writing to you with a dire emergency: I can't find any guys to date! Like, even though the ratio at Caltech is "in my favor," or whatever, looking for a boyfriend here is like deep sea fishing—the ones that you finally catch look really weird, and you just want to throw them back.

So, I'm asking for your advice. I need to find the man of my dreams. Actually, I just need to find a quick boyfriend. Sooner is better.

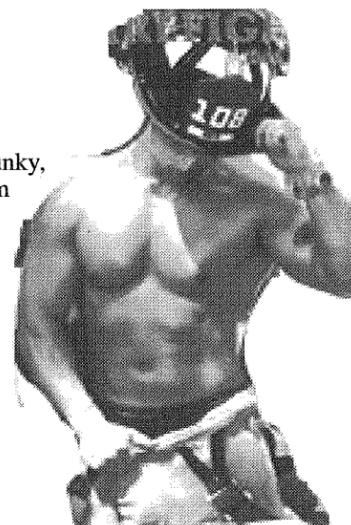
-- Desperate Tech Girl

A:  
Dear Desperate,

The answer to your prayers is much closer than you actually think. Hunky, steamy, HOT men are just around the corner, waiting to rescue you. What am I talking about? HELLOOOO! There is a fire-station on Holliston just busting with fire-fighters you can date. Seriously, why didn't you think of this sooner? Because I just told you right now! Here's why you should date them: 1) they are older. Older men are hot. 2) they are seasoned. Seasoned men are hot. 3) they are here to rescue you. Rescues are hot and sometimes end in romantic relationships. This is what you should do: go to the fire-station up on Holliston and pretend to pass out. When they try to do CPR on you, start making out with them. They'll like it. Good luck!

-- Cosmo

Dear Cosmo by Cindy Ko. Tips for "please your man" by Tech staff.



# I Want You

BY: PO KU

It's come to my attention over the few years I've been here that a large proportion of the upperclassman don't really give a shit about stuff that happens here anymore. Judging from the house spam and mailing lists I'm on and individual conversations I've held over the years, I've noticed that many of the older Techers have stopped being so adamant about various issues. They become more apathetic than anything else because they stop believing that they can change anything, especially by speaking.

Instead, many complain. They complain, but they don't explain. The freshmen of Dabney Hovse, for example, were understandably outraged by the inflated charges from P-Plant for the fixing of the mod gates. They started expressing it over the Dabney email list until Mo graciously rose to the challenge of summarizing the extent to



which Dabney as a Hovse was mistreated last year in the Great Censorship Debacle of 2004-2005. Thus the somewhat amusing, still hopeful rantings of a class that thank-

fully has not yet been completely castrated by our lovely administration ended.

Other examples exist: most notably, Avery. I speak not of the Hovse, but of the honor

code violation masquerading as that entity. Avery, the eighth and long hoped-for perfect Hovse, is one of the largest money sinks on campus. Its board program, admittedly, is much better than the regular Feynman plan (despite its less prestigious name), but the cost of it does not cover the expense of it. In contrast, the cost of the far inferior Feynman plan must cover not only its expenses, but the deficit expenses in Avery and in other dining services.

I found out all as food rep. We talked about changing the Avery board plan knowing that it was a BoCable offense, but then these talks mysteriously stopped. I also found out why changing Avery was not feasible now or ever. Avery was supported by the generous donations of wealthy influential idealists who would tremendously dislike the admittance that the entire housing structure is a failure, and will always continue to be a failure. Perhaps this is why Andre Mallie really resigned.

A red Caltech provides no freedom. Baltimore has insisted on ignoring the opinions of the student body the entire time he has been here, and I for one will be glad when he finally steps down from his power-mongering position.

It is tragic how many students stop trying or caring because they're made to feel ineffectual. It's time to change our tactics from one of negotiations to one of civil disobedience. With so many invisible strings being constantly pulled above us, how can we combat the inevitable before it becomes too late?

Well, just learn from Bush and use a pre-emptive strike: remember, it's not a war in the traditional sense, but a war on terrorism, administrative terrorism. I propose that the students show the full extent of their displeasure by not talking or writing but by shitting.

Don't let them tighten the noose anymore! Take action! I WANT YOU to give a shit!

# My Pile of Rat Chunks is Non-RFable

BY: ALEX SHEIVE

RF does not stand for "Real Fun" and is not a generic term for a prank. RF stands for "Rat Fuck". That is, shattering a frozen rat corpse inside someone's room when they leave for break so that their room is host to countless rotting chunks of diseased meat upon their return.

To RF something is to utterly fuck the hell out of it. The IHC resolution declaring certain things to be non-RFable is fundamentally flawed, unenforceable, and because nobody, at any time, anywhere, is allowed to rat-fuck anything they don't own, moot.

I'm unsure of where the Little T got "Real Fun". Maybe it's some mole slang, or maybe the editors didn't want to scare the

freshmen with cursing. Regardless, the whole thing began with Blacker's desire to officially state that any sort of prank on their old-as-hell tapestry would be likely to harm it permanently.

*"If Ricketts, as a house, innocently covered the cannon in pink chiffon and rhinestones, what could the IHC do, take away our picks?"*

That is, any prank on it could be an RF.

Then some bitch in Fleming pulled out the long list of house treasures he would be unable to get an erection without. Thus, due to whining, all of the houses were allowed to declare some items non-RFable.

Basically the Flems have just found a way to bitch so much

that new things to bitch about are bitched into existence by their bitching. Of course the cannon should be subject to pranks; it's a damn machine of war! Something designed to exist on a bat-

tlefield can certainly take a little phallic decoration.

Also, the Fleming flag is not "irreplaceable." It's a synthetic fiber eyesore and there's no real way that taping the letters A and G to it could do any harm. I don't know why they care about that bell, but somebody should switch it with a fake and see if they notice. Maybe someone has already done so ... good luck sleeping at night now Fleming!

The IHC states that they only have jurisdiction over acts between houses, making the rule unenforceable against individuals. Next year I could fill the cannon with oozinator bio-goo and use it to bukkake all the Flems, the flag, and the bell, in the middle of dinner, and the IHC couldn't do shit.

Certainly the CRC would hand anyone committing such an act a serious administrative smack down, so why have an IHC rule? If Ricketts, as a house, innocently covered the cannon in pink chiffon and rhinestones, what

could the IHC do, take away our picks?

For the record, before there were non-RFable items, Blacker stole the Lloyd gong, lost it, then paid for a new one. No rule needed. Nobody told the administration not to outlaw the existence of that fire pot Ricketts liked putting their non-RFable grill on.

Finally, RF or not, changing the Fleming flag to say "Eat 1" was nothing short of hilarious. I'd tell Fleming to get over it, but then it would be much less funny.

The non-RFable rule was a poor solution to a specific problem that was cultivated into a huge pile of bullshit. The rule now serves only to convince said whiners that their precious little items are safe. I suppose it might serve some purpose if it kept them from crying all the time, but that's a bit much to ask.

The IHC should realize that the best way to get something messed with is to say that it can't be pranked and give no good reason why. Fleming should then realize that the best way to get something screwed with twice is to cry about it the first time.

Treat your peers like adults; maybe point out that damaging other people's property is a bad idea. Leave it at that. There's no need to give targets to would-be iconoclasts, and ad-hoc rules dictating basic decency are provokingly insulting.



Lloyd gong. After being stolen and ultimately lost, it was declared non-RFable.

# Letters

Congratulations, Chandra! Your front-page story about President-Select (an exact phrase I've never encountered before) Chameau was a first-class piece of work. I was present at the Friday meeting in Beckman and your report captures the flavor and spirit of that meeting accurately, tastefully, and gracefully.

That's good journalism.  
- Ward Whaling  
Prof. Emeritus of Physics

## What TV to watch this summer:

Ten seasons of Stargate: SG1. "SG" stands for "stupidest generic sci-fi ever. WTF are you doing? Farscape and Battlestar Galactica, man."

The OC. It's about beautiful SoCal teens who routinely blow off school to procreate with each other...just like us. Amirite?

Lost. It concerns a team of writers who lost any idea of what the damn mystery of the island is, if they ever knew it.  
-Jon Malmaud

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# End of Year

BY: TONY FALK

The end of the school year is finally here, we're all another year older, another hundred and something units more educated (and closer to our degrees, or finally there), and except for the vast majority of people who will be doing something academic, everyone is ready for some well earned rest and relaxation over summer vacation. That means it's time for my semi-annual column clearing the air between Caltech and its student population, getting rid of any "beef" that people may have with the school, and in general letting everyone move on to their summers without any lingering bad feelings.

One the main problems many people have with Caltech is the "ratio," referring, of course, to the ratio between the number of you, and the number of you that has a girlfriend. Some say the cause of this is not a laissez faire policy towards personal hygiene, not a social life stunted by years of Starcraft and WoW, and not even the result of the fact that children cry when they see the twisted, pale, decrepit body of a Tech-er.

The cause is in fact widely believed to be the fact that Caltech has a lot more male students than female students. A lot of people are bitter because this (they believe) has kept them from having a hot lady friend. Luckily, this problem is merely a misunderstanding. Caltech is not stunting your romantic growth, but rather teaching you to persevere through adversity, to make your later attempts seem easy.

Imagine how easy grabbing up a lady will be when there is one of them for every guy out there! It will be like spending four years in the picked-over and barren oil fields to Texas for four years, and suddenly having ANWAR opened up by Simon Que, providing huge quantities of cheap gas at merely the price of destroying a precious national park. The national park is your dignity, in terms of this metaphor. The point is, you shouldn't be upset by Caltech's "ratio" but rather, use the training you're being provided to hone your skills.

Another problem a lot of Caltech students have is the lack of response they get when they try to make their feelings known to the administration.

Many people feel like they have problems, and they just get ignored. The best way to think about this is as training for the way the government will treat you in the future.

Right now tuition is being raised, which is essentially raising the price you pay to get a world class education. Could there be a better lesson for raising taxes, which is essentially the price you pay for FREEDOM? Also, you're losing towels and possibly medical care. You can think of this as preparing you to lose quality public schooling, and possibly medical care.

In addition, unlike the government, Caltech will soon listen to you. They'll pay attention if you send letters that say something like "I've recently become very wealthy, and I'd like to give something back to the school that taught me to persevere, but I'd like my gift to benefit students as well as research."2 And surprisingly enough, they'll probably also pay attention even if your letters say something like "You know what Caltech? You can go to hell. I'm hardly making any money as a research assistant, and I spend most of that to pay for the counseling I need to help me forget my time at Caltech so I can sleep without waking up screaming

from the nightmares. You'll never get a cent from me, even if you try to pry it from my cold, dead hands."3 So don't despair if it feels like those in charge aren't paying you any attention, just wait until you graduate, and they'll listen all you want.

There are other problems at Caltech, such as terrible food, a stunted social interaction with the outside world, a lack of respect for athletics, low energy dryers and inadequate funding for Caltech's world class RPS club. Rather than address these problems (which would require tens of minutes of more thinking), I'm going to suggest sucking it up. Don't be a wuss. Seriously.

A final issue many people have with Caltech is the soul crushing workload that defines the scorched hell that is a Caltech existence. But is it really so bad? I could make some argument about how you're being educated to be the best at what you do. Or I could use a similar analogy to the one if my earlier paragraph on the ratio, explaining how nothing you'll ever do again will be as difficult and millions of caribou and endangered wolves will be destroyed by your graduation. Or I could even say that you're not really working hard, not when com-

pared to the real heroes, the men and women of America's armed forces, working to protect us each and every day.

However, I'm not going to say any of that, because Caltech's workload sucks. But on the bright side, once you graduate, or even if you drop out, everyone who attends this Institutes hallowed halls gets unlimited smug snickers at anyone who mentions their easy/grade-inflated college. And that's a gift that will last a lifetime.

(Footnotes)

1 In this case "semi" means "not actually." As in, this isn't a column I write semi-annually, so much as one I write "sort of" annually, which in turn means this is probably the only time I'll write it.

2 This will of course be translated to look like this "I want to give Caltech money. Money money money. \$\$\$\$\$\$ ;) \$\$\$\$\$\$. Caltech should use this Money (\$\$\$) for whatever it wants."

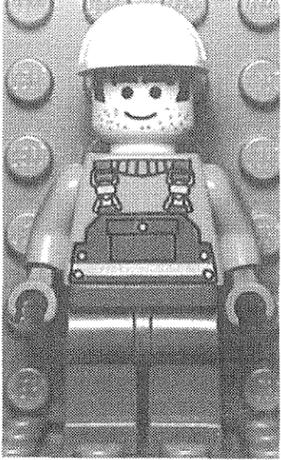
3 Translation for administrators "I'm not yet ready to give Caltech money. It will probably be ready next week, provided you call me and send me some letters asking nicely. Then I will give you money. Money money money."

# What's going on?

BY: CINDY KO

Almost every morning, I start by trudging groggily to the bathroom for the unceremonious placing of the contacts and the brushing of the teeth. Most mornings, the window is cracked open, and I can hear the construction sounds of the new place they are building on Chester. The bathroom walls make the acoustics eerily crisp; I can hear every buzz saw and power tool going on, along with the constant chatter of the workers. Sometimes I try to listen, but alas, it's a little too far to tell what they are saying. Nevertheless, every morning I can hear them laughing, shouting, and singing while they work.

Most of the time, nothing's



Construction workers are made out of legos and hence do not feel pain or provide nourishment. Delicious, delicious anesthetized lego construction worker.

really going on—just a sawing noise here and there and some clanking—but every once in a while I hear the saw noise accompanied by screaming. As if, somebody's like, "Oh my god! My arm! Aaaaaahhhh!" However, this cacophony is never followed by a series of ambulances or anything like that. It's just, "BZZZZZZZZZZZZ—

AAAAaaaaahhhhh!" and then, weirdly enough, life goes on. After the first few times of being thoroughly shocked and stopping brushing my teeth, I figured it was just a construction guy with a bad sense of humor. I mean, really, doesn't that joke get kind of old after a while? I bet his co-workers are like, "Enh, it's just ol' Carl, at it again. What a hoot. Haw-haw."

Then I thought, this is kind of a bad joke to play on a construction site; like a variation on the Boy Who Cried Wolf. One day, Bozo the Construction Worker is really going to get hurt, and who is going to take him seriously after that? (Okay, I really hope that doesn't happen, but that is how the Boy Who Cried Wolf Story goes.)

Then I came to thinking that maybe it wasn't a joke after all, and it really wasn't the same guy joking around every other day. In a very, very sick and cruel world, I could actually be hearing a different construction worker get seriously hurt, say maybe... two to three times a week, at least. And no ambulances? Maybe the contracting company is really, really cheap. Who knows.

It doesn't seem like there's a good explanation to fit what I'm hearing. I suppose I won't ever find out what's going on, but whatever. By the time I leave the bathroom, I've practically forgotten about ol' Carl and his antics, only to be reminded when I hear his pleas for help again the next morning.

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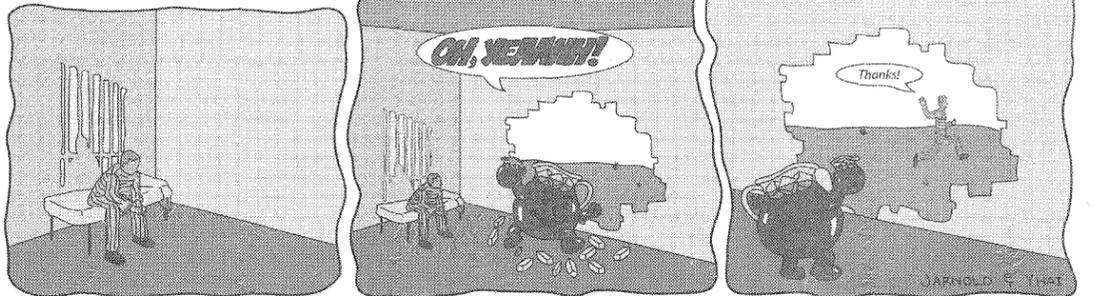
# Comics

G.L.O.M. - Greg's Life of Misery



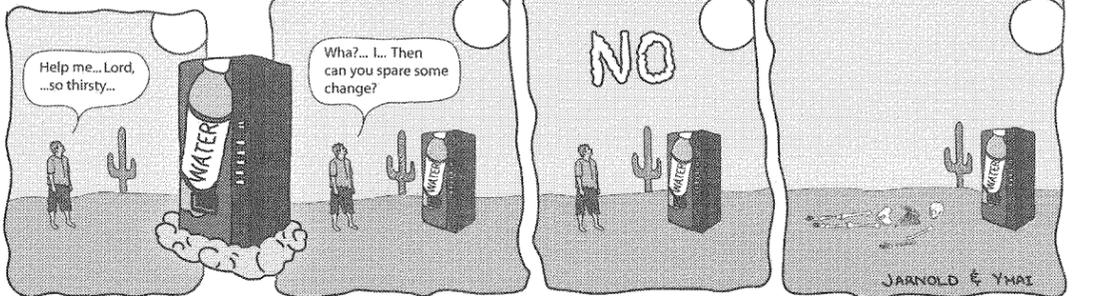
By Nathan Lau

The Aristocrat



JARNOLD & YHAI

The Aristocrat



JARNOLD & YHAI

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