



## ACTIVIST REVEALS TROUBLE

ATTENTION ON BURMA

### Ruling Military Class Commits Atrocities

By DAVID CHEN

Ka Hsaw Wa, who co-founded Earthrights International in 1995 with two American lawyers, presented a talk on Tuesday night about human-rights abuses currently taking place, especially the atrocities committed in Burma.

He began by talking about the geography and cultural make-up of Burma. Asking if any audience members knew where Burma is located and observing that few hands were raised, he described that Burma is neighbored by India, Laos, Thailand, China, and Bangladesh. Burma contains more than 200 different indigenous groups with their own customs and languages. In addition, many endangered species live in Burma.

Ka Hsaw Wa, who explained that his name means "white elephant", then described his own upbringing in Burma. Sixteen years ago, "I was 17, and I was a teenager. My life was so full of fun, and all I cared about was my look. If you owned an American jean, you looked so cool so I took good care of my pair of jeans."

One day an unknown person approached him and said, "Brother, I need to talk to you."



D. Kortz/The California Tech

**Ka Hsaw Wa shares his experiences as a teenager in Burma that caused him to become a human rights activist.**

The stranger showed a badge, indicating that he was military intelligence, so Ka Hsaw Wa had no choice but to concede to the demands. He saw that "they took me to the police station, and I thought I was going to identify people, so I wasn't scared." Contrary to his expectations, he was brought into an enclosed room without windows and which had a distinctly moldy smell.

A friend of Ka Hsaw Wa's had fought against the army and fled. Suspecting that Ka Hsaw Wa knew his whereabouts, the military attempted to interrogate him but he truly did not know the requested information. "It was so painful. They tortured me for three whole days." In an attempt to break him, they starved him

and poured filthy water down his throat. He also had to crawl over rocks used for road construction because the interrogators wanted him "to swim over them".

The next thing he knew, he woke up in the hospital. "I was so angry that I could only think of revenge." Two weeks later,

*Continued on Page 2, Column 1*

## BoD Elections Today; Candidates Weigh In

By KEVIN BARTZ

Maintaining unity through the upcoming renovations of the South Houses tops a potpourri of promises from over 20 candidates competing for 12 ASCIT offices in today's hotly anticipated ASCIT election, a bellwether race for the soon-to-be retasked Board of Directors.

The focal point of this year's election is the race for Inter-house Committee chair, where Peter Foley '06 and Melody Grubbs '06 are vying to lead the on-campus houses through renovations and to help shape Avery after last May's landmark Faculty Board decision opening Avery House to freshmen.

Facing the renovations-necessitated relocation of South House residents next year to mobile homes on Avery's North Lawn, Foley sees the IHC's role as one of "encouraging interaction between the houses" and hopes to procure funding for trailer-park social events and to find temporary homes for the Coffeehouse and ASCIT screening room, both of which

will be inaccessible during renovations. In contrast, Grubbs called cultural preservation the duty of the individual houses, though she pledged to help if asked.

Both Foley and Grubbs agreed that the Faculty Board decision last May opening Avery to freshmen is irreversible, although Grubbs said the IHC could still postpone it. "I do not think that the decision will be overturned," she held. "However, I do feel that the IHC could possibly postpone it." Foley called the faculty's decision final, turning instead to the open question whether Avery will become an "eighth house" or an alternative to the seven on-campus houses. "What the IHC can do is determine which outcome will win," he said.

Most of the responsibility for social events during the renovations will fall to one of two social director hopefuls, Dima Kernasovskiy '06 and Rocky Velez '07, both of whom promised to resuscitate ASCIT's do-nothing reputation in planning

*Continued on Page 12, Column 1*

## Senn Ends Facebook Friend Competition

By JON MALMAUD

How many friends do you have on The Facebook? Fifty? Over a hundred? Imagine having over 4000. Such is the case with Page-boy sophomore Jon Senn, who currently holds claim to over 4400 and is gaining more every day.

His story began several weeks ago after staying up for nearly 48 hours to complete a couple sets. He heard about collegehumor.com comedian Steve Hofstetter, the "thinking man's comic." Hofstetter had declared to the world that he would quest to obtain 100,000 Facebook and donate two cents towards tsunami relief for every person who confirmed him. Under the theory that there's nothing a comedian can do that a Caltech math/CS major can't (and under severe sleep deprivation), Senn took up the implicit challenge.

He began by randomly requesting the friendship of up to forty people per school at once. Some of his friends at other schools then asked their own friends to list Senn. Within several days, Jon was up to 4000 confirmations. Senn has since ceased his campaign for 100,000 after getting some sleep, although some of his friends continue to labor on his behalf. "If I couldn't beat Steve",

Jon says, "it definitely wouldn't be funny enough to continue."

Senn's escapades have generated both die-hard fans and enemies. One University of Michigan girl has told Jon that he is her "favorite random friend." Another girl has created a Facebook group, "Friends of Jon Senn", using his face shot as its icon. A University of Maryland newspaper has even picked up the story. It seems his quest has a certain subtle heroic element that awakens devotion in complete strangers. Perhaps it is the struggle of a single student against a famous celebrity and impossible odds. Perhaps people just think its cool.

Not everyone does, though. Only about half of those Jon has attempted to befriend have confirmed him. A Swarthmore student called Senn "shallow and ignorant" for competing against Hofstetter without giving anything to charity. Jon responds that "if two people are running a marathon and one is donating money for Tsunami relief for every mile ran and the other isn't, that has no bearing on whether or not they're racing." A Stony Brook undergrad has requested that Senn go back to "deriving [his] protein scaffolding molecular newtonian

*Continued on Page 2, Column 4*

## Experiences as Oldest Astronaut, Ohio Senator Recounted by Glenn

By ALEX SIEGEL

The oldest man to have traveled into space, as well as a former Senator from Ohio, John Glenn, gave a speech to a crowded auditorium in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium last Wednesday as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series. Caltech's own Office of Campus Life takes about ten students, chosen by lottery, to some of these events, including this one, throughout the year.

Glenn opened his talk modestly. He recalled a time when he was introduced as one of the "few, truly great men in this world." Glenn could only laugh

at such a statement. He cracked a few astronaut jokes and once the ice was broken, he began to talk about his experiences in space.

His first space flight in 1962 was a source of many fond memories for Glenn. He orbited the earth at 17,500 miles per hour, which meant that he saw a large amount of sunrises and sunsets during his orbit. The sunrises and sunsets in space are different from those on Earth, Glenn remarked, because the Earth's atmosphere removes the green and blue end of the spectrum, but in space, the sunsets cover the full spectrum.

John Glenn also commented on

the thinness of the Earth's atmosphere with respect to the size of the Earth itself. When he noticed it from space, he was astounded by how fragile the atmosphere was and how important it was to protect it from pollution.

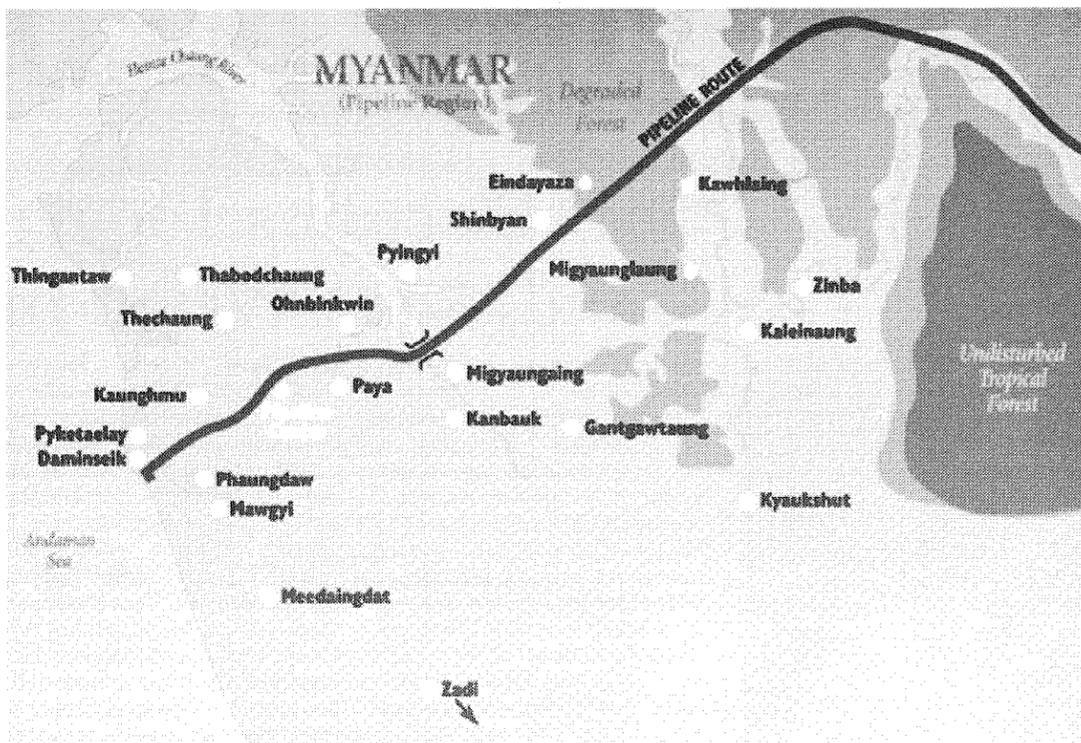
In space, the food is ordered beforehand, however, anything with crumbs is naturally forbidden as the low gravity would cause them to float off in all directions. Another problem with cooking in space is the ovens. Because there is no gravity, there is no hot air convection, so a lit flame doesn't float up in a tear shape, but forms a sphere and

*Continued on Page 12, Column 1*



Courtesy of www.snswire.com

**John Glenn helps carry out an experiment during his 1998 mission aboard the shuttle discovery that made him the oldest person to travel into space.**



Courtesy of [www.unocal.com](http://www.unocal.com)

This map depicts the route of the Unocal pipeline through Burma that Ka Hsaw Wa brought a case against for conscripting rural Burmans and for forcibly relocating villages.

## Earthrights International Founder Victorious Over Burma Company

Continued from Page 1, Column 3

he joined an uprising started by students. "We were students, we were teachers, we were farmers... We thought we got democracy." Instead of yielding, however, the government fought back. Ka Hsaw Wa described, "Many of my friends were shot in the street." To efficiently clean out the dead bodies on the streets, the military would load them onto a truck and bury them together, despite the fact that some bodies may have only been wounded and still alive.

The government began to arrest possible leaders, and "it was so clear that I was targeted, so I left to the countryside." When he was hiding in the jungle, Ka Hsaw Wa saw the devastation that the villagers faced and thought, "I need to expose these kinds of things to the international community."

Any commercial developments were in cohorts with the military, who would forcefully drive away villagers from a desired area. In addition, the military would conscript villagers to work on their projects without pay. Such projects included logging operations and building outposts and other structures for the military. The military essentially had full power over the villagers, and Ka Hsaw Wa showed a video clip of a covert team that interviewed a woman who said that she was raped by the Burmese soldiers.

In these chaotic moments when they are forcefully evicted, the villagers have no time to collect their belongings or even family members. In another video clip, a man was asked where his wife and children were. He said that he didn't know but could only follow the rest of the villagers.

Many of these villagers become refugees in Thailand, which officially has 140,000 refugees but the true count could be higher. Thailand's troops border the patrol, preventing further refugees from entering.

Earthrights' most famous case involved the Yadana pipeline being constructed through Burma, in a partnership by Unocal, Total, and the Burmese military. The two companies contracted the military to provide "security." The reality was that villagers were forced to work on the pipeline and build supporting structures. These villagers working for them were referred to as "porters." In addition, the military would set landmines,

from which Ka Hsaw Wa personally saw 5 dead animals.

Ka Hsaw Wa told the story of one woman who helped testify against Unocal. Her village had been forced out of the proposed pipeline region, and her husband was forced to work on it. She was at home one day, holding her two-month old baby and cooking rice over a fire when one soldier gave her a kick, which knocked her into the fire, and the baby died.

A videoclip by Earthrights notes that even Unocal's former president knew that "some porters were conscripted and some were volunteer." Nonetheless, a videoclip of a scene from the court-room showed Unocal's lawyers attempting some clever maneuvers. After clear evidence that a heli-pad was constructed with forced labor, the lawyers would claim that those pads were not actually part of the pipeline project and so not Unocal's responsibility. Ka Hsaw Wa noted that, previously, Unocal had even brought a Burmese lawyer to an American court room and attempted to use Burmese laws here.

He emphasized that we could help the situation. "You can do a lot of stuff... Corporations and the Burmese military have money and guns but we have truth, courage, justice and most importantly, we have each other."

He then offered the audience an opportunity to ask any questions. The first question asked the current status of the case with Unocal.

Ka Hsaw Wa said that they had reached a "principle of agreement." Unocal agreed to pay the wages for the unpaid laborers, set a fund for villages affected by the pipeline, and to pay the lawyers' fees.

Another issue was how the Burmese situation could be improved by international pressure. Ka Hsaw Wa said, "Although we can not

remove all human-rights violation, you can already see a difference." Previously, conscripted labor was openly used, but such violations are no longer flagrantly employed. The United States has a sanction against Burma, so no new business arrangements with Burma are allowed.

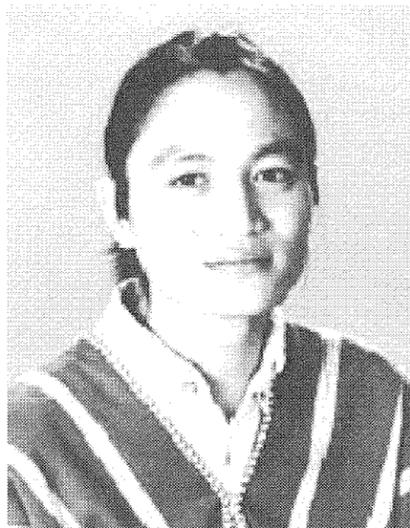
In addition, an import ban was started just last month, but Ka Hsaw Wa said that Burmese shippers try to route their products through Thailand. He said that a recent report came out well-documented that almost all Burmese corporations are controlled by the Burmese military, directly or from family members related to the military.

One audience member asked how Earthrights could teach the Burmese to protect their rights when they didn't really have a constitution or legal system to define and protect such human rights. Ka Hsaw Wa said that they "really can not do anything" but they teach community and village leaders issues of international law and how to approach the international community. In addition, they instruct the Burmese on how to negotiate treaties with military.

Another disturbing topic that was brought up was the growth of Burma's military. In 1988, there were less than 2,000 soldiers. Today, there are over 300,000 soldiers, many of them young men who were forced to join. Ka Hsaw Wa said that the Burmese military systematically trains

these youth to develop a ruthlessness. Earthrights has created a report, *The School for Rape*, which extensively documents this process.

Burma generates a large portion of its income from drug sales. A recent report from the United States State Department reports that about 60% of the heroin in the United



Courtesy of [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org)

Ka Hsaw Wa has received numerous honors for his human rights work.

Department reports that about 60% of the heroin in the United

## Poker Tournament In Cards For Sophomore

Continued from Page 1, Column 2

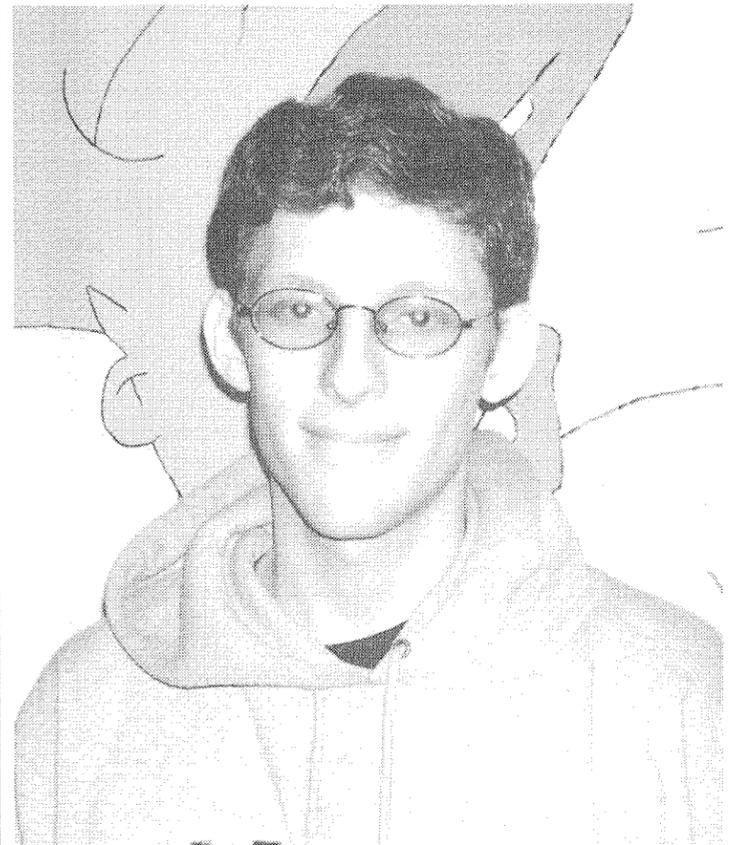
dynamics." His wall is full of similarly-themed messages. Even Hofstetter has contacted him: "I appreciate the props, but I don't want people to get misperception of what I'm doing...people are making it look like we're in sort of bet." Senn replies that he never said he was directly competing with Steve. Hofstetter has listed Jon as a friend.

Jon won't have much time for Facebook shenanigans this spring break, though. He won an online poker tournament whose prize includes airfare, hotel costs, and the entry fee to the prestigious Monte Carlo tournament second in fame only to the World Poker Tour. Over a million dollars will be distributed to the tournament champions. While Senn estimates his chance of winning a prize at less than 5%, he already pays for his entire tuition from his online winnings.

This isn't the first time a Caltech student has made Facebook news. Lloyd junior Adam d'Angelo, who is part of the Caltech team which competed in the finals of the International Collegiate Programming Contest, helped create a supplement to Facebook known as "Wirehog" along with Mark Zuckerberg, creator of Facebook,

and others. Wirehog ([www.wirehog.com](http://www.wirehog.com)) is "a social application that lets friends exchange files of any type with each other over the web." It can automatically access your Facebook account to determine who your friends are and show you the files they are sharing. It also provides a simple way for you to access your documents and media from other computers. Wirehog has thousands of users and returns nearly 600 hits on Google.

Adam is also the sole creator of the incredibly popular Buddy Zoo. Buddy Zoo ([www.buddy-zoo.com](http://www.buddy-zoo.com)) is a website which allows you to upload your AIM contacts and presents you with a wealth of information regarding your social connectivity. For example, it tells you how many other people have you on their buddy list and what buddies you share with other friends. Its most intriguing feature is its ability to generate a graph showing how all your buddies connect with each other in an intricate and entangled web. Over eight million people have uploaded their buddy list. Caltech has hence contributed greatly to the rise of inter-college social networks. Our anti-social reputation is quite undeserved.



L. Tran/The California Tech

Page sophomore Jonathon Senn gave up his quest to become the first person to 100,000 Facebook friends for lack of time.

### The California Tech

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## CUE Discusses Changes to Tech UG Curriculum

### Issues of Overloading, Reversing Ma2a & Ma2b, Improving Ph2 on Table

By JENNY FISHER

In its first meeting of the term last Monday, the Council on Undergraduate Education discussed several changes to the curriculum that are being made or considered.

Scott Fraser, chair of the Core Curriculum Steering Committee, reported that the math department is proposing to reverse the order of Ma2a and Ma2b so that differential equations will be taught first term and statistics and probability will be taught second term. This will help ensure that students who elect to take ACM95 as sophomores will have had a full term of introductory differential equations before the topic is covered in more depth in ACM95. The math department is also dropping Ma7 as a menu course. A class on the same topic but with slightly different uniting will still be offered (with a different course number) but will no longer satisfy the freshman menu requirement.

Scott Fraser also noted that the physics department and the Core Curriculum Steering Committee are looking into ways to improve Ph2a, most likely by dropping either thermo or waves from the course. The CUE is, in general, in favor of keeping waves and dropping thermo, as thermo is taught and required in multiple options, while the subject of waves is cov-

ered only in Ph2a and Ph12a. If you have thoughts on this issue, please express them in the SFC Core survey online at [http://donut.caltech.edu/vote/vote.php?SID=&survey\\_id=164](http://donut.caltech.edu/vote/vote.php?SID=&survey_id=164).

Andy Ingersoll, chair of the Academic Policies Committee, reported that his committee is looking into the issue of overloading. Many faculty members are in favor of lowering the maximum number of units a student can take without petitioning to overload. The student members of this committee do not favor this idea. The committee is trying to gauge student opinion on this issue and has posted a survey at [http://donut.caltech.edu/vote/vote.php?SID=&survey\\_id=159](http://donut.caltech.edu/vote/vote.php?SID=&survey_id=159). Regardless of whether you've ever overloaded, please take a few minutes to complete the survey and share your opinions on this issue.

Other issues discussed at the meeting included future additions to the Regis online scheduling system to make it easier to perform a graduation audit, rectifying schedule conflicts, and possible improvements to Teaching Quality Feedback Reports. If you have questions or comments on any of these issues, please contact Jenny Fisher at [arc@donut.ugcs.caltech.edu](mailto:arc@donut.ugcs.caltech.edu).

## Caltech Historian Brings Newton to the Huntington

By MARK WHEELER

PASADENA, Calif. - As a boy, Isaac Newton was terrible at working on his mother's farm. Sheep he was supposed to watch, for example, would wander away while Newton became engrossed in a book. But even in grammar school in Grantham, England, Newton showed his considerable talents. One ingenious device he built was a wooden replica of a watermill, powered by a mouse on a treadmill, the mouse motivated to run by tugs on a string tied to its tail.

The boy evolved into the man who discovered the law of universal gravitation and planetary motion, who invented calculus, proved that white light is composed of a spectrum of colors, and ultimately, extended his influence beyond science to impact all aspects of modern culture. Beginning March 5, Newton's life and work will be explored in the first of a two-part exhibition at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino. By showcasing a range of Newton artifacts, the exhibition will "examine the formation of the mind of a genius," says noted Newton scholar Mordechai Feingold, the show's curator and a professor of history at the California Institute of Technology.

A mathematician and physicist, Newton's innovations transformed the realm of scientific thought and inquiry, but also the wider intellectual world as well. After Newton, the search for uni-

versal principles shaped the development of ideas in virtually all fields, including history, psychology, metaphysics, and literature. "Everyone wanted to be the Newton of their field," says Feingold. "Adam Smith wanted to be the Newton of economics; Hume wanted to be the Newton of moral philosophy."

"He became one of the greatest icons of science that ever lived," says Feingold. "The diffusion of various stages of his ideas not only permeated science, but art, literature, and religion as well through the 18th and 19th centuries."

Because of this wide ranging influence, the exhibition will be in two parts. The first focuses on Newton and his science, and will run through June 12 in the library's west hall. Then, a follow-up exhibition titled *The Newtonian Moment: Isaac Newton and the Making of Modern Culture* will examine the influence his work exerted on all aspects of modern culture. It will run from Saturday, July 23, 2005 through Sunday, Jan. 1, 2006.

The Huntington exhibit follows on the heels of a similar exhibition, also curated by Feingold, that took place at the New York Public Library. While the Huntington will include key manuscripts that were shown in New York (from the Cambridge University Library in England, where the largest collection of original Newton materials reside), it will mainly draw from Huntington's Newtonian artifacts, none of which traveled to the East Coast. "The Huntington has an extraordinary collection of scientific materials," says Feingold. The show will also feature items from Caltech and from UCLA's Clark Library, showcasing a trove of Newton articles that are housed in Southern California institutions.

Through approximately 70 Newton manuscripts, books and related materials, the exhibition will explore the many facets of Newton's pursuits that are not as well known, such as his strong interest in alchemy and theology. Visitors to the exhibition will see many of his personal letters, books, and drawings. A centerpiece of the first exhibit will be Newton's personal copy of the first edition of his *Principia Mathematica*, published in 1687. "It is the monumental treatise that unified celestial and terrestrial mechanics under a single law--universal gravitation--and charted the course of physics for some two centuries," says Feingold. Once the book was published, Newton took a copy and interleaved it with blank pages facing the original pages, handwriting corrections and additions on the blank sheets and in the margins. Also on display will be *The Opticks*, published 17 years after the *Principia* and containing Newton's revolutionary theories regarding light and colors. The exhibition will also display works of those who significantly influenced Newton's thinking, including those of Galileo and René Descartes.

Even as Newton's new concepts were gaining acceptance and setting a new scientific standard, they provoked controversies and even public clashes. "For friends and foes alike, Newton became an icon to be emulated or rejected, revered or excoriated, but always there to contend with," says Fe-



### Free Tickets to see William Shakespeare's Measure for Measure

The first 16 Caltech students who apply for tickets at the box office for each February performance will get in FREE thanks to the Hallett Smith Fund.

### The Beckman 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 next year.

If interested, submit a proposal describing where and how you would use the stipend along with one faculty recommendation, to the Deans' Office, 210-87, or email [machang@caltech.edu](mailto:machang@caltech.edu), by MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2005

### 2004-2005 Everhart Lecture

The first 2004-2005 Everhart Lecture, "Were Microbes the Architects of Ancient Shorelines?" will be given by Tanja Bosak, a Caltech graduate student in Geological and Planetary Sciences. The lecture will be held in 101 Guggenheim Lab (Lees-Kubota Lecture Hall) on Thursday, March 3 at 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served at 3:45 p.m. For more information on the lectures, see [www.its.caltech.edu/~els](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~els). Sponsored by the Graduate Student Council, the Graduate Office, Campus Life, and Graduate Housing.

### Caltech Idol Contest/Spring Fling Luau

The Tech Express is holding their second annual Caltech Idol Contest and Spring Fling/Luau! The extravaganza will be held on March 9th, 2005. The Caltech Idol contest will be held from noon-1:30 pm, and the Spring Fling with food and festivities will be from 11 am to 3 pm, outside of the Tech Express. The contest is open to all undergrads, but the entire campus is invited to come watch and help themselves to the free food and great prizes. Last year's winner will be participating again this year, and the Hawaiian Club Hula girls will also perform.

### Caltech Public Events:

Coming Soon ...

Measure for Measure  
Feb 18 - Mar 5

Biglittlethings  
Fri, Feb 25, 8:00pm  
\$25, 21, 17

Space - Boldly Go  
Sat, Feb 26, 2:00pm  
\$5 (unreserved)

Cavani Quartet  
Sun, Feb 27, 3:30pm  
\$29, 25, 21, 17

Walter Mosley

Continued on Page 5, Column 4

## New, Improved ARTS Shuttle Routes Make It Easier to Get Around Pasadena

By ANN ERDMAN

Big improvements in the city of Pasadena's Area Rapid Transit Service (ARTS) are coming Sunday, Feb. 20, including expanded hours, route restructuring and the addition of a new route that will make it even easier for residents and visitors to leave their cars behind and catch a ride across town.

The changes move Pasadena closer to its General Plan guiding principle of being a city where people can circulate without cars.

Fares on the citywide shuttle system remain 50¢, or 25¢ for

children, seniors and riders with disabilities.

All ARTS bus routes will start an hour earlier, at 6 a.m. Monday through Friday, and the city's busiest routes will increase frequencies during weekday mornings and afternoons. (There is no change to start times on weekends.)

Other changes include:

\* The new Route 70 will connect southwest Pasadena residents to the Fillmore Gold Line Station weekdays during the morning and afternoon commuter hours.

\* Routes 10, 31, 32, and 60 will be changed to increase service to more areas and to better serve those who need to travel to and from Metro Gold Line stations.

\* Route 10 will end service at 8 p.m. on Fridays and



Saturdays.

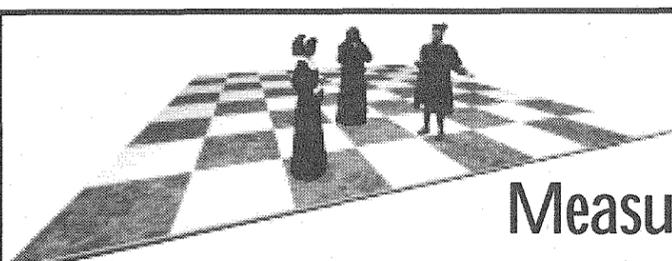
Route 60, weekday service, will expand to operate from 6 to 10 a.m. and from 3 to 8 p.m.

New schedules and system maps are available on the buses, at any branch library, in the lobby of 117 E. Colorado Blvd., at Department of Transportation office located at 221 E. Walnut St., Suite 199, and at [www.cityofpasadena.net/trans](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/trans) (click on Transit Operations).

For more information call 744-6470, or visit [www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/trans/transit/trans\\_arts.asp](http://www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/trans/transit/trans_arts.asp)



courtesy of [www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/trans](http://www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/trans)



Theater Arts at Caltech  
presents

## William Shakespeare's Measure for Measure

directed by Shirley Marneus

February 18 - March 5, 2005

Friday • Feb. 18, 25, Mar. 4 @ 8 p.m.

Saturday • Feb. 19, 26 @ 8 p.m.

Saturday • Mar. 5 @ 2 p.m.

Sunday • Feb. 20, 27 @ 2 p.m.

Ramo Auditorium • Caltech

Tickets: \$15 (unreserved seating)  
\$10 Caltech/JPL  
\$ 5 students

Caltech Ticket Office  
(626) 395-4652 1-888-222-5832  
[events@caltech.edu](mailto:events@caltech.edu)

# Track and Field Shows Strong Opening at All-Comers Meet, Tennis Teams Lose to Cal Lu, Fencing Faces Tough Opponents

By MIKE RUPP

Caltech Athletics Weekly  
Roundup  
February 7, 2005

## Track and Field: Individuals shine at season-opening All-Comers meet

The Caltech Track & Field team opened its season with its annual All-Comers meet, featuring opponents from a wide variety of backgrounds. Junior Jeremy Leibs won the 110 Meter High Hurdles competition with a time of :15.44. A runner-up at the SCIAC Championships the past two seasons and Caltech's all-time record holder in the 110, Leibs represents the school's best opportunity to send a representative to the national championships. Freshman Matt Kiesz made a tremendous contribution for Caltech in the distance running events, running an impressive 4:35 in the mile and a 9:28.8 in the 3000 Meters, both team bests.

Junior Ransom Polythress had a career personal best in the javelin throwing competition with a launch of 47.42 meters. Senior Kristen Zortman also had an excellent performance with javelin, throwing a 34.24; eight centimeters off her school-record of 34.32 set last season.

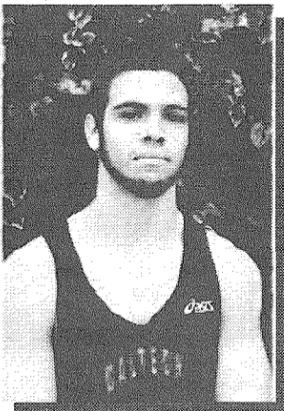
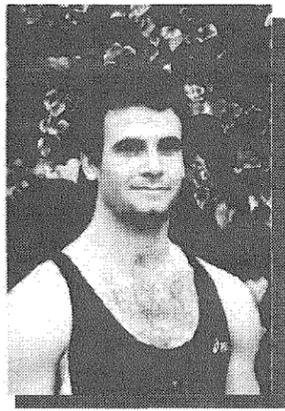
Junior Helen Tai also had a good day, with a personal best of 15.43 meters in javelin, as well as a split of 65 seconds in her leg of the 4x400 relay. The team competes next at the Pomona-Pitzer All-Comers meet this weekend. Their next home meet comes April 2nd, as an SCIAC Quad meet.

## Student Athlete Spotlight: Men's Swimming - Jason Lee

Competing in the final meet of his collegiate career this weekend



courtesy of [www.athletics.caltech.edu](http://www.athletics.caltech.edu)  
**Men's Swimming: Senior Jason Lee**



courtesy of [www.athletics.caltech.edu](http://www.athletics.caltech.edu)

## Track & Field: (from left to right) Junior Jeremy Leibs, Freshman Matt Kiesz and Junior Helen Tai gave strong performances at the season-opening All-Comers Meet.

will be senior team captain Jason Lee, the subject of this week's Student-Athlete Spotlight. "[Athletics] has definitely made my time here much more enjoyable." Lee said. "It creates a sense of balance between academics and the rest of it. If I didn't have athletics, I wouldn't have that balance." Before coming to Caltech, Lee hadn't played organized water polo. But by his senior year, Lee not only tied for second on the team in scoring with 35 goals, he was named team captain.

Lee is obviously happy with his progress. "If I hadn't come to Caltech, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to pursue my athletic hobbies." Head Coach Clinton Dodd will miss Lee's contributions to aquatics. "As captain of both the Water Polo and Swimming and Diving teams, Jason Lee is just a solid, dependable athlete and a joy to coach. He is well-liked by his peers

and coaches and I feel very fortunate to have him at Caltech and on my athletic teams. Jason just keeps on improving and is simply not satisfied with being just an average overachiever." A biology major, Lee plans to take a year off after graduating before applying to medical school.

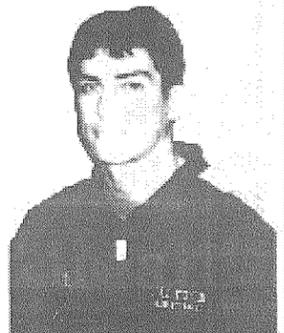


courtesy of [www.athletics.caltech.edu](http://www.athletics.caltech.edu)  
**Women's Basketball: Freshman Rene Davis**

## Davis leads Women's Basketball against Claremont, Pomona

The Caltech Women's Basketball team showed continued progress this past week in conference games against Claremont Mudd-Scripps and Pomona-Pitzer. The team lost to Claremont, 38-70. Freshman Rene Davis was the high-scorer of the game with 16 points. She also had two blocks and a career-high six steals.

Against Pomona-Pitzer, the team lost 43-68, the 25-point margin representing one of the program's closest efforts ever



courtesy of [www.athletics.caltech.edu](http://www.athletics.caltech.edu)  
**Men's Basketball: Junior Jordan Carlson**

against a SCIAC opponent. Jessica Roberts led the team in scoring with 15 points, adding six rebounds and four steals. After cracking double digits in only two of her first ten games, Davis has scored 12 or more points in three consecutive games now, giving her a 7.7 points-per-game average on the season. The team

plays its next game this Tuesday night at home against Whittier College. Tip-off is at 7:30 PM.

## Men's Tennis opens season with loss to Cal Lutheran

The Men's Tennis team lost its season opener to the #19th ranked team in the nation, Cal Lutheran, by a score of 0-7 this past Saturday. The team lost all six singles matches in straight sets, with the closest loss coming in Junior Derek Chang's 6-4 loss in his first set. Caltech dropped all three doubles matches. The team plays its next match this Friday at the University of Redlands.

## Women's Tennis loses to Cal Lutheran; falls to 2-1

The Women's Tennis team took its first loss of the season to Cal Lutheran this past Saturday, losing 0-9. Junior Rachel Yohay gave a courageous performance at #6 singles before

losing 6-7, 7-6 (10-7). It was the closest match of the day for Caltech. The team's next match is this Friday at home against the University of Redlands.

## Carlson leads Men's Basketball

Junior Jordan Carlson and the Caltech Men's Basketball team continued to fight their way through a tough SCIAC Conference schedule. On Saturday, the team lost 36-77 against Pomona-Pitzer. Carlson led the team with 13 points, nine rebounds and two steals. Earlier in the week against Claremont Mudd-Scripps, Carlson led the team with 11 points in a 32-75 loss.

Freshman Guard Paxon Frady was Caltech's second leading scorer for the week, averaging eight points a game. Carlson continues to lead the team in scoring (11 points a game) and rebounding (5.6 rebounds a game). He's second on the team in assists, steals,

blocks and field-goal percentage. The team plays its next game this Wednesday night at home against Whittier College. Tip-off is at 7:30 PM.



courtesy of [www.athletics.caltech.edu](http://www.athletics.caltech.edu)  
**Fencing: Sophomore Katherine Harvard**

## Harvard dominates for Fencing

The Caltech Fencing program faced two of the

toughest opponents on its schedule this past weekend when it faced UC San Diego and Cal State Fullerton in a dual meet. The Women's Epee team was the only group to score a win for Caltech, defeating Cal State Fullerton, 6-3. Sophomore Katherine Harvard dominated the opposition, going 6-0 for the meet while scoring 30 points while giving up only 11. Senior Haomiao Huang of Men's Sabre and Junior Vanessa Heckman of Women's Sabre each won three bouts apiece, keeping their squads competitive. Katherine's brother, Freshman Alexei Harvard of Men's Epee, went 12-3 on points against UC San Diego, winning his first two bouts and finishing the third with a 2-1 lead before time expired. The team fences next Saturday, February 26th at UC Irvine.

## This Week in Athletics:

Women's Basketball  
Tuesday, February 15  
vs. Whittier College  
7:30 PM - @ Caltech

Men's Basketball  
Wed., February 16  
vs. Whittier College  
7:30 PM - @ Caltech

Women's Tennis  
Friday, February 18  
vs. Univ. of Redlands  
2:00 PM - @ Caltech

Women's Tennis  
Saturday, February 19  
vs. Whittier  
9:30 AM - @ Caltech

Swimming & Diving  
Thursday-Saturday  
February 17-19  
SCIAC

# NFL Season Over: Trying to Fill in the Time

By HAMILTONY FALK

Clown. So that's what I think about when the NFL season ends. Maybe that's not true. Maybe that's just what someone said when I asked what I should write about. But regardless, thinking about the NFL season ending is something I have to get used to.

After spending nearly half the year obsessing over professional football, and in my case the Philadelphia Eagles, the end of the Super Bowl frees up large parts of my brain normally devoted to things like how much depth the Redskins have on offensive line, if Jack Plummer will manage to actually hit a fan with an errant pass, or the humorous last name of a certain New England defensive back.

Now I have time to focus on other important things, like family, friends, remembering that I should have been feeding my cat for these last few months (football makes you forgetful) and other such tasks. Or I could focus on the Draft, free agent signings or other such important things. In

case you're strong enough to resist such temptations (like I hope to be), I've decided to compile a list of things to do in the time between the end of the playoffs and training camp.

1- Study hard, get all your sets done early, achieve an A average and do some research as an undergraduate. (Hey, I do write a humor column, I'm allowed to suggest crazy things once and a while).

2- Get a hobby, like gardening or stamp collecting. There's lots of fertile land on campus to dig holes in which to stick plants. There are even lots of free plants. Just make sure you do your gardening at night, and run away if security shows up. If you prefer stamp collecting, just get a hack saw and "search" those wonderful boxes everyone puts their mail into. There are lots of stamps that people don't seem to want (why else would they just glue them to a piece of paper and send them away?) and taking them is hardly a felony.1

3- Watch hockey. The season is really heating up this year, as no

team has yet been eliminated for playoff contention, nor has any team secured a playoff spot. Some people thought that just because a team from Florida won the Stanley Cup that the NHL would be "cursed" but they seem to be just a bunch of superstitious fans who don't follow the game as closely as I do.2

4- Take up a sport. Like, actually playing one, instead of sitting on a couch watching football and eating buffalo wings. Buffalo don't even have wings. You can easily use up some of your time by taking advantage of Caltech's strong NCAA program, offering things like tennis. And other stuff, I think. Track maybe? Clearly a way to improve yourself physically.

5- Learn to knit.

6- Turn your obsession over the NFL to an obsession over something healthy, like a popular TV show, or washing your hands at least three times an hour. There's no obsessiveness like the compulsive kind.

7- Read all my old articles (feel free to e-mail me if you have one

you want to look at) and shower me with praise and or physical rewards for my comic genius.

Here are a few things that didn't make my list (but may have been suggested) because they didn't make any sense: engage in spiritual and emotional growth, visit scenic nature preserves, attend cultural events, do deep-breathing exercises, improve your diet, turn off the television one hour earlier each night, read one book per month, or perform community service.3 If you do for some reason feel the urge to do one of these things, I recommend watching an NBA game.

(1) Except in the United States and associated territories. And probably Canada.

(2) I was just informed that all the hockey players have been on strike this year and the season was canceled. I don't see why this makes it any less exciting to follow.

(3) Thanks to [NFL.com](http://NFL.com)'s Gregg Easterbrook for these suggestions.

# Reflections of a Watson Fellow-- Exploring Tanzania and its Dance

By IRAM PARVEEN BILAL

Watson title: Dance: Language of emotion or culture?

Countries on itinerary: India, Tanzania and Ireland

Now is the time for current juniors to start thinking about what you have really wanted to study in life, a passion that you did not have time and money to pursue earlier. You just might be able to get the dollars now, thanks to the Watson Fellowship. Freeze your life for a year and do it now because it is now or never. Think about that one little thing that you always love doing and that you can do for a whole year, accompanied with the wild experiences of travel. It could be studying "the concept of hate," to learning "new massage techniques," or even researching "the practice of black magic." This summer is when you should start making your contacts and put your Watson proposal together. You are free to contact me if you have any questions.

My latest stop was in the African nation of Tanzania, and here are a few of my observations about the excitement and challenge of being a Watson fellow:

-- Tanzania is very expensive, and the supply of products is really limited in quantity, quality and variety. Travel advice: Bring as many products you need for everyday life because there is little available here. For instance, I couldn't find a single piece of quality printing paper in the biggest bookstore in town.

-- The average Tanzanian doesn't appear to term the seasons as winter or summer. Rather, the year is divided into periods of short rains, long rains, or dry weather. In this equatorial climate, the only solid way to differentiate climate seems to be by the degree of wetness.

-- An inordinate number of leading positions in Tanzania and most of East Africa seem to be taken by south Asians, mostly from Pakistan and India, as well as some Europeans.

-- With such a limited infrastructure, there's seems to be little incentive for education, in general. As a result, a family "business" may end up in the family for a long time.

-- Appearance is important to native Africans. Having new-looking clothing and a stylish look is not lost on Tanzanians, just as in parts of the developed world. While on the subject of desire of fashion, I met this group of eye

camp missionaries from America and they also said that people were more concerned with the style and price of the eyeglasses than their use when they were asked to select a pair of free glasses!

-- If you get a single entry visa into Tanzania, you can basically use that to enter multiple times if you are traveling within East Africa, which includes Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Swahili is an easy language to learn. It uses one word for a whole scheme of things at times. "Fundu," for example, means worker -- and can be used for everyone from a qualified engineer to an unskilled fruit vendor. "Naomba" can be used as "please," or "May I have?" or "Would you pass?," etc.

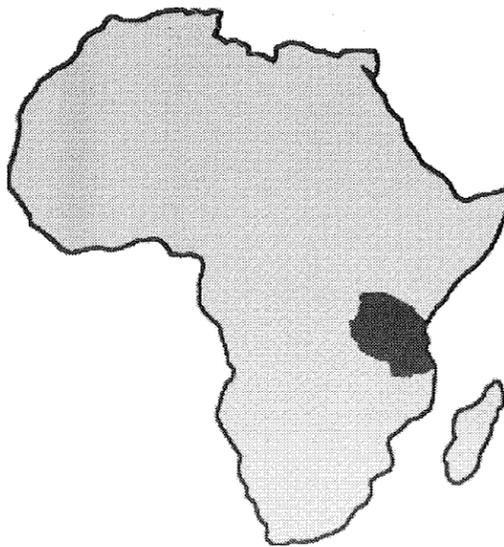
-- Be careful about randomly taking pictures on the street.

*"Many dances are staged only as a show for tourists, at least in the villages bordering developed or developing towns."*

Some people get upset. Suspicions about taking someone's picture abound, and more than a few think you're simply going to make money from the pictures you take of them. The Maasai seem to do well by demanding before allowing tourists to film them -- up to \$2 for a simple picture!

-- Women's rights are manipulated just as they are in so many other uneducated society. In many sectors of society, pregnancy and children are the females' responsibility -- exclusively. Fidelity also has its limits, as I found out when a Maasai man offered to kiss me in front of his wife, who smilingly nodded her acquiescence to the idea. But I didn't.

The Watson includes its obligations, and the irony I am fac-



courtesy of [www.library.thinkquest.org](http://www.library.thinkquest.org)

The country of Tanzania lies in the south-east of the African continent, and is home to 36.5 million people.

ing in observing and learning more about dance in Africa is that dance here is not necessarily associated with religion. Instead, it seems more connected to age-old tradition, unlike in India where the birth of dance was in the lap of Hinduism. While religion does not get affected as much by education through the years, tradition does. Hence, the more people are getting educated, the less they feel that most of these tribal practices are necessary. In fact, because a lot of the traditions are based on principles that crash once education sets in, it makes their survival harder.

The existent tribal dances are done to celebrate a wide variety of ceremonies ranging from death to circumcision, celebrating the latest crop of maize to instances of war. However, like most other cultural traits and traditions in the face of modernization, these are also at the risk of being wiped out. Many dances are staged only as a show for tourists, at least in the villages bordering developed or developing towns. With education still lacking, the intellectual curiosity to research the origins of these traditions is lacking. Many tribesmen have never really thought about why these are done, and one is left to wonder how long this spread of tribal dance will be as easy and unquestioned as it is now.

Next on travel itinerary: Ireland, with street dancing; jigs, reels, and more. Peace and all the best for finals!

## Feb. 15 ASCIT Minutes: SFC, Budget Surplus

ASCIT Minutes  
February 15, 2005

Present: Ann Bendfeldt, Ryan Farmer, Jenny Fisher, Kelly Lin, Galen Loram, Meaghan Pacey, Kim Pependorf, Claire Walton  
Absent: Shaun Lee  
Guests: Warner Leedy, Michelle Wyatt

Introduction:

1. Call to order, 12:15 pm

Money requests:

2. Fleming requests multihouse funding for beer pong with the Scurves the previous Saturday, motion passes 5-0-0.

3. Ricketts requests multihouse funding for both beer pong with the Flems and broomball with the Rudds the previous Saturday, motion passes 5-0-0.

4. Ruddock requests multihouse funding for broomball with the Scurves the previous Saturday, motion passes 5-0-0.

5. Warner requests \$500 for Dabney's Drop Day party, motion passes 5-0-0.

Other business:

6. The installment dinner for the new BoD is scheduled for the evening of March 4, and the deans, various folks from student affairs, et al. have been invited.

7. As the study abroad committee is now a standing committee, hopefully we will be appointing students to it soon; we are moving forward with related negotiations and red tape-cutting.

8. There was supposed to be a barbecue this past weekend, but it didn't happen because Ryan got a horrible sickness. Happily, Ryan is feeling much better and with any luck we'll reschedule it soon.

9. Apparently a lot of people

have gotten sick recently and are sleeping abnormally much. So, you heard it here first: **BEWARE OF MONO AT APACHE!**

10. Jenny gave us an update on all things academic affairs-related: more student-faculty conferences (SFCs) need to appoint faculty co-chairs, the quality of life SFC needs work, and she'd like to see Avery choose an ARC rep very soon since this is about the time of year when ARC things start (the bylaws would be amended accordingly once the new ASCIT BoD is installed).

11. Kim updated us on IHC affairs: the IHC is integrating Avery by including the Avery Chancellor as a standing guest right now, the South House renovation preparations are going smoothly, and Andre is being helpful regarding food concerns. The way the damage fund is run is changing although Housing assures us that the Houses should receive the same amount of money as before (except more of it will be through Housing instead of the damage fund). There was some question of how House dues are being charged to student accounts, but we think it all adds up.

12. Ryan, our treasurer, informed us that he has eliminated large fixed costs from the budget, leaving us with a balanced budget for the next two terms--and also a nice surplus.

13. Galen moves that we put \$15k in the ASCIT endowment for the benefit of future generations of ASCIT; vote 3-2-1, the motion is tabled.

Meeting adjourned 12:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meaghan Pacey  
interim ASCIT secretary



Continued from Page 3, Column 5

The Literary Life  
Fri, Mar 4, 8:00pm

For more information on events see <http://events.caltech.edu>

Events at the Caltech Women's Center

*Slim Hopes*

Special showing as part of Body Image Awareness Week. Date: Thursday, February 23, 2005; Time: 12-1pm; The average woman in the United States today is 5'4", 140 pounds. The average model is 5'11", 117 pounds. In *Slim Hopes*, Jean Kilbourne explores the nature and implications of this striking disconnect between fantasy and reality.

March is Women's History Month at the Women's Center

Keynote Lunch

Rita Arditti: Searching for Life; March 2, 12:00-1:00 p.m.; Athenaeum; RSVP required to [wcenter@studaff.caltech.edu](mailto:wcenter@studaff.caltech.edu).

Dr. Arditti, author and biologist, will trace the courageous plight of the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, a group of women acting as detectives and human rights advocates in an effort to find their grandchildren. These women helped create the Argentinean National Genetic Data Bank and identified 57 of an estimated 500 children who had been kidnapped or born in detention centers during the dictatorship that ruled Argentina from 1976-1983.

International Women's Day Film Rosa Luxemburg; March 8, 7:00-

9:00 p.m.; Beckman Institute Auditorium; The International Film Club and the Women Center will host a showing of Rosa Luxemburg, a film that details the life of the woman who led both the German and Polish Socialist parties and whose anti-colonialist and pacifist stance on the issues of her day lead to her assassination. No RSVP needed.

Reel Women Film Series

Tupperware! March 10, 12:00-1:00 p.m.; 2nd floor of the Center for Student Services; This film reveals the secret behind Tupperware's success: the women of all shape's, sizes, and backgrounds who discovered they could move up in the world without leaving their house. Free pizza! No RSVP needed.

International Women of Hope Poster Series

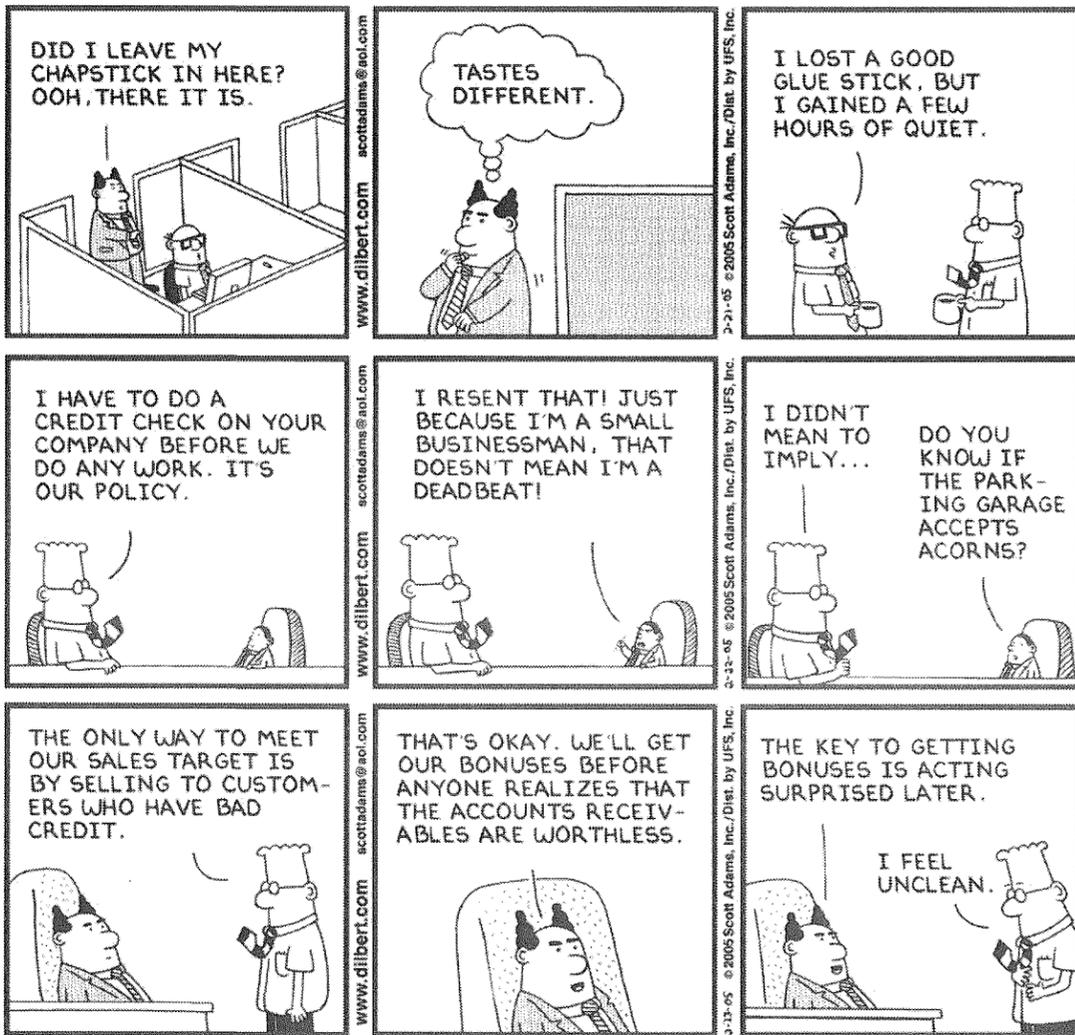
The month of March; Lobby of the Center for Student Services; From Ella Bhatt of India and Peace Bikunda of Rwanda, these posters highlight the remarkable achievements of internationally-renowned women, their courage, compassion, and contributions to their respective countries.

Lela Lee: What's A Girl Got To Be Angry About

March 31, 8:00 p.m.; Beckman Auditorium; Lela Lee first created her comic strip Angry Little Asian Girl after viewing offensive and chauvinistic cartoons in a festival of animation. Join Lee as she discusses how she channeled her anger and personal experiences into a comic strip addressing issues of gender, ethnicity, and misunderstandings through humor. Sponsored by Public Events. Free, no tickets required. For more information, see <http://events.caltech.edu/events/event->

## Who Controls The Democratic Party?

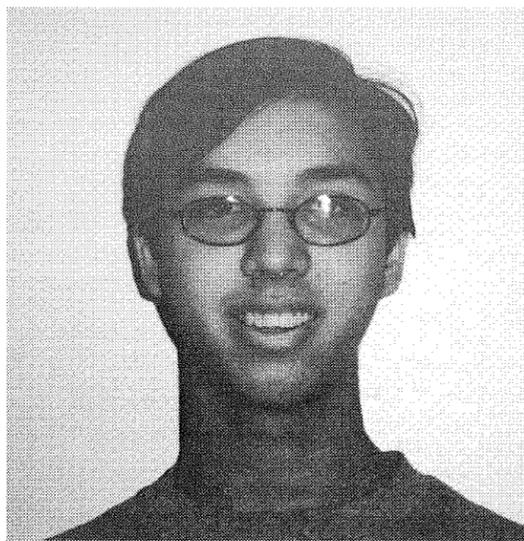
[www.DiscoverTheNetwork.org](http://www.DiscoverTheNetwork.org)



## ARC Chair Candidates

### James Berglund

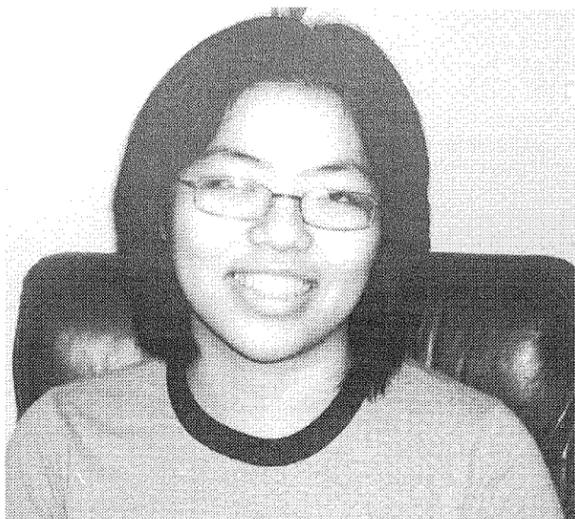
If I were elected ARC chair, my primary goals would be to have an effective Student-Faculty Conference (SFC), and to increase the visibility of the ARC. I would work to make sure that classes are canceled during the days of the conference, and encourage everyone to go to the presentations that are relevant to them. I would also work after the conference to make sure the suggestions that the committees presented were implemented by the appropriate department. The SFC is a unique time to improve the quality of academics here, and I would make sure it's fully utilized. As a previous ARC member, I am familiar with what the ARC does each year, and I could run those duties smoothly. Finally, I would work to increase the role of the ARC, by having it be more active in promoting the use of the CLUE, more promotion for various committee sign-ups, and have more meetings with faculty to discuss relevant issues.



### Meng-Meng Fu

Academics are an integral part of life at Caltech. We all have gripes about certain classes or certain academic policies. I believe that the role of the ARC Chair is to present the opinions of students to faculty committees and administration so that they can be turned into tangible changes in the curriculum.

Currently, the ARC is not an efficient committee - our sole responsibility is to appoint other students to other aca-



demical committees. As ARC Chair, I would initiate regular meetings of the ARC and hold ARC reps responsible for requesting student input from their respective houses. I would update CLUE so that we can continue to use it as a resource when researching classes. I would streamline the sharing of information from the vast number of academic committees on campus by posting regular reports on the ARC website and by writing articles for the *Tech*. I would also encourage cooperation of the ARC with the BoC to aid the Honor Code through better education of TA's and usage of the cooperation policy worksheets in all classes.

The immediate duty of the new ARC Chair is to facilitate the Student Faculty Committee (SFC) next term. Having served as the interim ARC Chair last term and as an ARC rep for the past year, I am familiar with the issues that each and every committee is tackling. The challenge is to turn the suggestions of the SFC committees into beneficial changes. Issues of particular importance that affect everyone are:

- decreasing the number of overload units
- adding humanities/social science minors
- reorganizing/restructuring core

My main goal for the SFC is to accurately represent the opinion of undergraduates. For example, mixed opinions exist about decreasing the number of overload units. Some think that this is a good idea, because it will effectively decrease the workload and allow more time for

## Calling Prospective Teachers and Giving Them the Truth

By TAMMY MA

Recently, I helped call the students who had already been admitted to Caltech under early admission. While I'm sure it was an interesting experience for them, I can attest that it was a very interesting experience for me--the strangeness of talking to possible future Teachers.

As trained by the admissions office, we were supposed to start our phone calls with "Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling from the California Institute of Technology. First, I just wanted to congratulate you on being admitted. Are there any questions you

said she was picking between Caltech and Yale. "Really?" was the only thing I could think to say. "Caltech sure isn't the school for you if humanities is what you're looking for. The Core classes alone will make you miserable."

And of course, I got to talk to the overly enthusiastic high school seniors who wanted to know anything and everything about Caltech. "Caltech is my first choice school! Tell me about the honor code! Is house life really as great as it says in the brochures? What research have you done? Will I be able to do research my

freshman year too? What's the social life like? How's the food?"

*"While still being truthful, I couldn't help talking up the school, and the parts I really do appreciate about it, like the honor code and the relationship the undergrads have with the administration."*

freshman year too? What's the social life like? How's the food?"

And even though it was kind of annoying talking to someone who was that excited, I had to admit the enthusiasm was somewhat infectious. While still being truthful, I couldn't help talking up the school, and the parts I do really appreciate about it, like the honor code and the relationship the undergrads have with the administration. And for a little bit, I was reminded how thrilled I was when I found out I got into Caltech, and how much I was looking forward to college. It made me recollect why I had picked Caltech in the first place--for the research opportunities I would be given, the small school atmosphere, and because the house system was so unique. And while the school was definitely harder than I could have imagined, I certainly did experience these things that I came to find, and they have made me a better person.

So when these bright new faces start visiting Caltech and looking to us, as their hosts, for information and advice, maybe we should try to remember how excited we were when the Caltech acceptance letter came. And instead of dampening their visitation with our gripes and complaints, we should give them our motives for not only coming to this school, but our reasons for staying here. I have a suspicion that we have it better than we think, and the least we can do for those that come here excited is to send them away with the same excitement.

In one conversation, after I had asked the girl I called if she had any questions, her reply, twenty seconds later, was a slow, "No..." "So," I said, trying to prompt her to talk, "Is there anything about the Caltech academics or social life you want to know about?"

Again, a twenty second wait. Finally, a slow and quiet, "No..." came over the phone again. I quickly ended the conversation and hung up the phone, thinking to myself that this girl was perfect Teacher material, and two years into her time here, she'd be a bitter, depressed student, whining about why no one had told her before she came what kind of school Caltech really was.

And then there were those parents who were rude and abrupt on the phone until the words Caltech came out of your mouth, and then they couldn't get their kids on the phone with you fast enough. (Usually, these parents were Asian... and I'm only allowed to say this because I'm Asian too.) It always brought a smile to my face.

Oddly enough, I ran into a girl who only had questions for me about the humanities at Caltech. It was a grilling--she asked me probably every possible question that could be asked about humanities. I could have written my 3,000 word Core paper based on the transcript of our conversation. When at the end I asked her what schools she was considering, she

the pursuit of other interests (such as sports, extracurriculars, or research). Others are worried that it might hinder them from graduating on time. In order for this change to be beneficial, a compromise must be reached between students and faculty: for example, required classes need to be offered every year without exception or the number of units needed for graduation need to be lowered.

To summarize, I would be good choice for the next ARC Chair, because of:

-Experience: interim ARC Chair, ARC rep, various academic committees (Council on Undergraduate Education, Student Core Advisory Committee, Library Committee)

-Sensitivity to the opinions of the undergraduate population.

-Ability to cooperate with faculty and administration.

But most importantly, I care deeply about academic issues because they affect all of us on a daily basis. I will do all that I can to push for appropriate academic changes, because I honestly believe that they will make Caltech a better place to learn and a happier place to be!

# Interhouse Committee Chairman Candidates

## Melody Grubbs



L. Tran/The California Tech

As a candidate for the position of IHC chairman, I am aware that if I am elected then I will have my work cut out for me. With the South House renovations soon to be underway and freshmen being admitted into Avery this fall, one of my main goals will be to make certain that this upcoming year's Rotation moves smoothly and is as fair as humanly possible. Although many of us are against the idea of allowing freshmen to live in Avery, it will be necessary to put that sentiment aside during this year's Rotation in order to insure that this year's incoming class has as pleasant an experience as possible.

As new blood in the student government, I will be able to serve as an impartial liaison between the IHC and ASCIT and I will

also be able to impart the opinions and views of the students to the administrators without altering them because of my own personal stances. Also, since I possess good interpersonal skills, I will make certain that the students, faculty, and staff that I interact with are treated professionally and that their ideas and opinions are received with respect whether or not I agree with them. Finally, I will ensure that the duties of the IHC are carried out in a manner that either maintains or improves the student's quality of life and in order to do this effectively, I will do my best to make the administrators aware of the affect that changes will have on campus life well before they decide to alter Institute policy.

## Peter Foley

From my perspective, the role of IHC Chair is to act as a mediator and channel of communication between undergraduates and the rest of campus, including administrators, faculty and graduate students. As a member of the ASCIT BoD, they must truthfully represent the interests of the House Presidents. For these reasons, it is of utmost importance that the Chair be willing to overlook their personal opinions and work entirely in the interests of the student body as represented in the House system. My two most important strengths, in the context of this position, are my openness to discussion of viewpoints contrary to my own beliefs and my willingness to compromise.

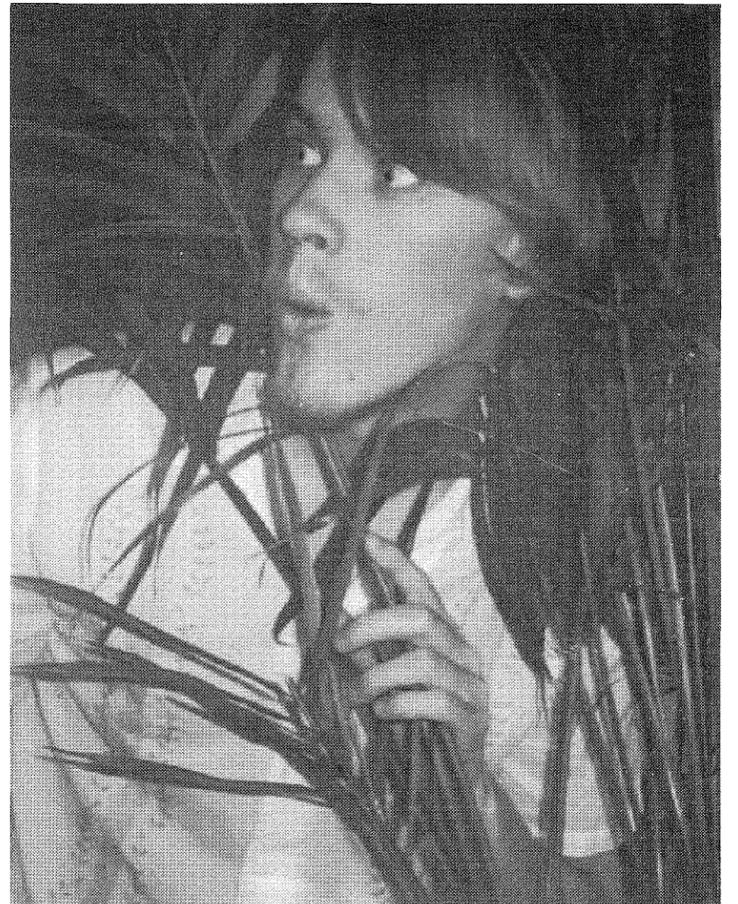
This coming year will be a difficult one for the IHC. Rotation will be confused not only by Avery, but also by the distance and quality differences between North Houses and the South House trailers. Similar problems will be faced for years to come, especially after the South Houses are complete and the North houses are sent to trailers. The decisions we make now regarding Rotation and the House system will have repercussions long after everyone here has graduated.

The havoc of renovations will hurt our sense of community and there is a distinct need for strong, independent, and truly representative student government. South House traditions and coherence will be disrupted when half of the south house students are scattered around off-campus residences. We have been able to retain

nearly autonomous control over student life for decades, and in order to keep it, we must keep the undergraduate community and government unified and strong. I will do this.

I am a stickler for organization and would have little difficulty keeping track of the myriad issues, meetings, and decisions. I am well aware of the time com-

mitments of the IHC Chair, and have accepted that sacrifices will be made in my academic and personal life. While willing to act as a moderator, I am incredibly stubborn when I feel that my voice (and in this case the voice of the student body) is being ignored. Undergraduate influence in Caltech cannot be compromised.



Courtesy of P. Foley

# ASCIT Secretary Candidates

## Parvathy Menon

**The window.** I am a sunbeam. Ah good Snell, let me in - I will refract and reflect all the desires of your soul, student body. With my light, I will show the ASCIT the way of Truth and Good. When I submit the weekly ASCIT minutes, this light will shine out from the pages of the Tech and kindle fires of inspiration within each of you. Feel the warmth of my sunbeam - nay, soak it in... for the way I will oversee club funding will delight your senses and grant you peace of mind.

**The window.** I am a light breeze. Let me in. Let me ventilate the musty corners of the attic of ASCIT. I will gently guide, allow your spirit to soar upon my winds. Thus, I will present your complaints and deepest desires - your very essence -- to ASCIT. And you should fear not. Because I will always hear you. And ASCIT will hear me. And we shall let freedom ring.

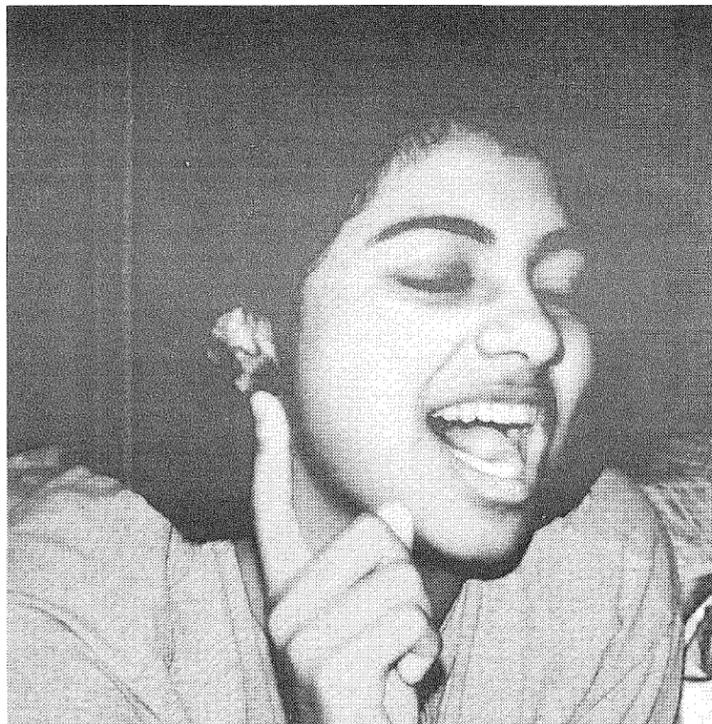
**The window.** I am Erik BloodAxe - Viking Warrior - reborn with the task of bringing back the ASCIT glory days of olde. Let me embark on this crusade of change, to cleanse and take back ASCIT for the students. Like raining Fresca, let my lightly carbonated but substance-full character sparkle. Take this opportunity to energize and revolutionize. I will bring inspiration and refreshment - every ruling, every meeting of ASCIT will be sheer exhilaration and contentment with me steering as your Secretary.

In the wise words of modern Buddha -slash- Pop sensation Mario,

Baby, You should let me love you  
Let me be the one to give you  
everything you want... and need.  
Baby good love and protection  
Make me your selection

Parvathy will show you how  
ASCIT was supposed to be.

\*\*\*\*\*@ Parvathy for ASCIT  
Secretary - only love, friends,  
only love \*\*\*\*\*



Courtesy of P. Menon

## Meaghan Pacey

We all know that the next year is going to bring a lot of changes and growing pains, from moving the South Houses to trailers to getting frosh in Avery. As a South House member (Fleming) and an Avery resident, I feel that I am particularly well-equipped to represent the students who will be most affected by these changes. In addition to being a good representative of the Caltech undergraduate body, I am highly qualified to take on the duties specific to the secretary position as well. As the current interim ASCIT secretary (standing in for Corinna

Zygourakis while she's abroad), I would have the advantage of starting my term with some degree of experience and knowledge of current issues if elected. I am a good minutes-taker (You might have all contracted mono at Apache if it weren't for me! If you don't get it, read my minutes.), and I'm very excited about the new club-related duties that the secretary will be taking on due to recent BoD resolutions.

That said, I realize that for some of you my Avery affiliation will be a contentious issue, and I want to address the point head-on. While I am personally in favor of frosh in Avery--we should have more confidence in the freshmen's ability to make their own decisions, in my opinion, and I encourage all of you to relate your good experiences with the house system to them during their decision process--I realize that many students disagree with the situation and am committed to representing those students with sensitivity as well. I have experienced both the house system and Avery, and I like each of them for different reasons and think it's important that both are available options for undergrads. Vive le difference! I suspect that the primary source of frustration regarding the frosh in Avery de-

cision is the perception that the faculty board disregarded the opinion of the student body and reached a hasty agreement without consensus on the rationale. If elected, I promise the student body that I will do everything in my power to maintain the large degree of student self-governance that makes the Caltech community great, and to use the full weight of my ASCIT position (yes, every



Courtesy of M. Pacey

member of the BoD, from president to FDAL, gets face time with administrators) to lean on faculty committees as necessary to avoid hasty decisions.

Sincerely,  
Meaghan Pacey

## Treasurer Candidates

### Franklin Jiron

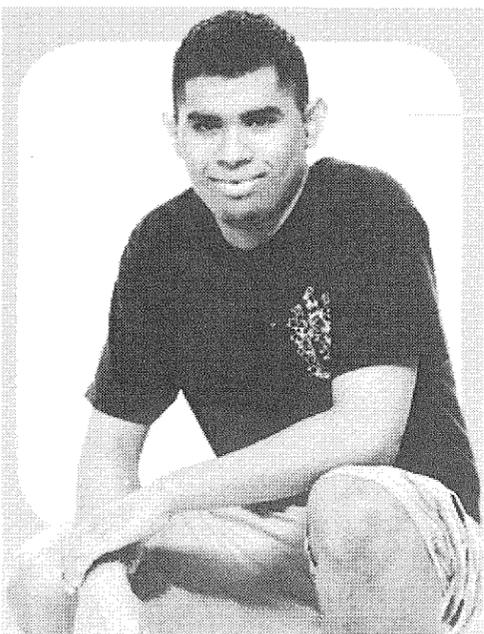
I have been a Caltech student for almost three years, and in that time, I am saddened to say, I have not been involved with many activities on campus. As a Junior in E&AS done with the bulk of my stringent required courses, I wish to spend some of my long overdue free time doing something for the general student body.

Most people do not realize how much work goes into many of the ASCIT events. Donuts, formal, theater nights, student clubs, and all of the other activities that ASCIT offers to Caltech students are all made possible by your dues. As treasurer, it would be my job to guarantee that all ASCIT activities have adequate funding. I would like to ensure that when it comes time for elected officers to deliver promises of great events, that there are enough resources to uphold their commitments. Aside from the ongoing funding of activities, it would be also my job to keep track of ASCIT's assets and assure that they serve the student body.

Aside from keeping track of where your money is going, it would be my responsibility to harvest positive relationships with all those whom we do business with. A good relationship with current busi-

ness partners could result in better rates, and attract more business to contract with us. What this means to you is more money for other activities, more possible venues for off campus events, and higher quality of current services. Also, if approved, I will have oversight over several student publications. I plan to support these groups both financially and otherwise, and serve as a liaison between them and the BoD.

I am very much committed to serving my fellow classmates, and I believe that the best way that I can help is to serve as treasurer. Being treasurer is a responsibility not to be taken lightly, and I fully commit to myself to the job. Thank you.

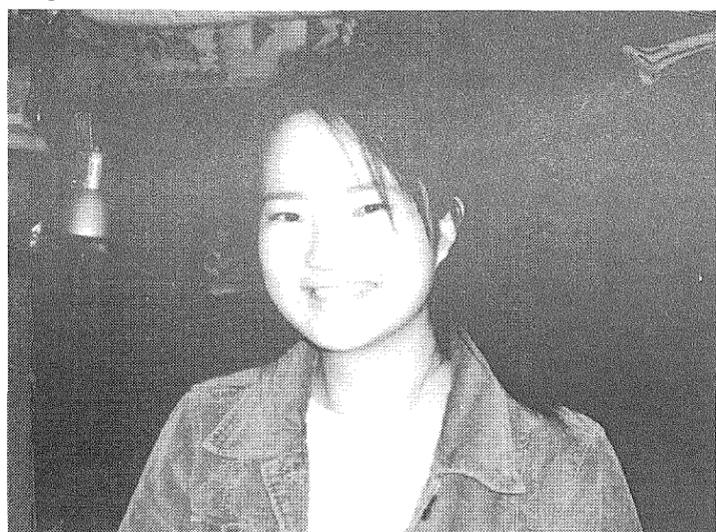


Courtesy of F. Jiron

### Kelly Lin

I believe that the most effective way to improve the Caltech community is to get involved in student government and to better understand the social and academic issues on campus. Serving as the Freshmen-Director-At-Large and as an active member on various student committees this past year has taught me a lot about the issues that concern the administrator and, more importantly, the students. I believe that among the most relevant issues is the way money is spent on students. After all, ASCIT is an organization whose purpose is not only to enhance communication between diverse groups on campus, but also to improve the overall quality of life for Techers. As treasurer, I will make sure that dues are spent in a way that will benefit students most directly. With the increased budget, I will strive to allocate

more money to fund clubs, social activities around campus, and student-faculty-"Take Your Prof Out"-lunches. I will also work to improve the visibility of ASCIT by helping organize more campus-wide activities such as sports barbeques and more bagels and donuts! Having worked on the Big-T for almost two years, I understand the difficulty in putting together an awesome publication, but at the same time, I will make sure that our publications meet deadlines and stay within budget. I will do all that I can to maintain our budget surplus and also make our Caltech experience memorable. I am ready and eager to dedicate time and commitment on the duties of this position and I would love the opportunity to continue to serve as an active and enthusiastic member on the BoD.



L. Tran/The California Tech

## FDAL Candidates

### Hanwen Yan

I'm not sure how long this is supposed to be, so let's start out with the important stuff first: I'm a dashing, 5' 9" Asian male, who may or may not be Korean, seeking a cute, intelligent, nice, caring girl who loves The Notebook to spend the rest of his non-working nights with (ends in a preposition, so what).

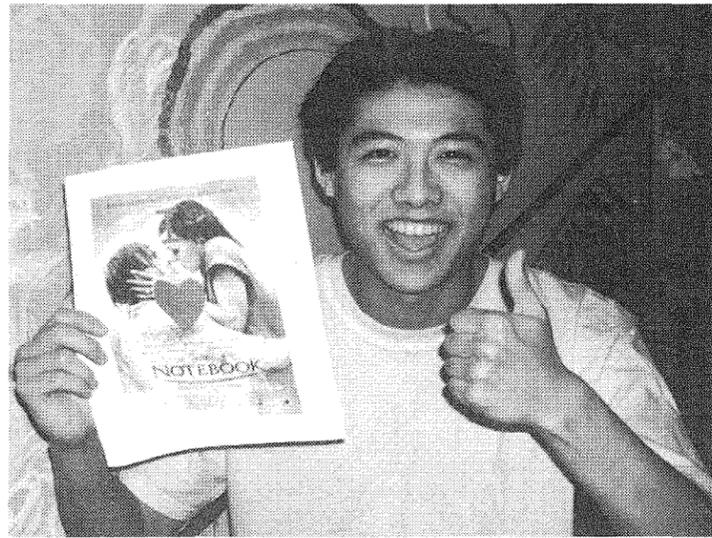
Now, about the FD@L position: the FD@L must be a ridiculously good-looking, intelligent person who is amazingly charming and charismatic enough to be the liaison between the naïve freshmen and the BoD. I am not that person. Yet. If elected, I will try my best to present myself in an acceptable fashion so I may be able to handle the issues that may arise with the freshmen and relay the problem and possible solutions to the BoD. I will make sure that freshman views are completely recognized by the BoD without regard for my own life.

I support the reallocation of the FD@L's present club duties to the Secretary, unless of course, the Secretary is already overburdened with work. Officially the Secretary should handle club affairs, but whether or not this is true in practice should be discussed with the Secretarial position. This is a minor issue, as long as the club duties are accomplished successfully. I am ready to accept not only the club duties, if needed,

but any other extra jobs required by ASCIT.

There are many issues that freshmen have, but I believe one of the most important issues is school spirit. I simply don't feel very connected with the school and my fellow students. This is one concept that permeates throughout our college experiences to every level, from work to play work. I rarely hear cries from the heart such as, "I LOVE Caltech" and "I'm SO happy right now!" There are House social events but there exists a dearth of larger-scale events that promote campus-wide unity and catalyze Beaver Fever. My job

as FD@L will include designing innovative solutions which will provide freshman, as well as all undergraduates, with a better sense of school spirit so that we may reduce the number of potential angry, bitter students. My job as FD@L will include reminding students that although they are getting beaten down ruthlessly, it is they who will be doing the beating down of students graduating from places such as Caltech East in Cambridge, MA in the years to come and that they indeed do attend one of the most prestigious institutions in the world. Thank you for your time.



L. Tran/The California Tech

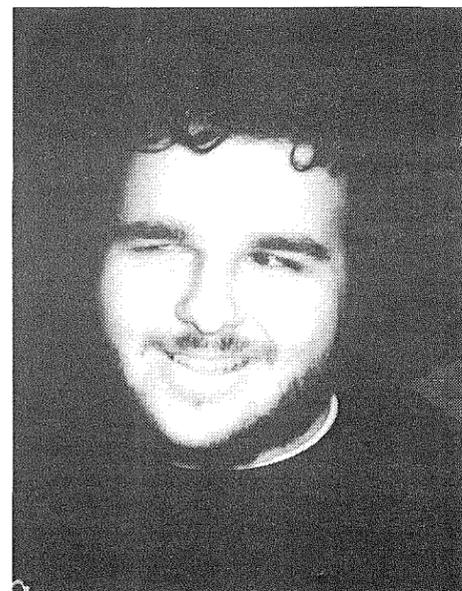
### Anton Shuster

What is FDAL? FDAL is a vote! There are many ASCIT offices, but only the BoD gets to vote on issues pertinent to the whole student body. In this sense, it is clear why the FDAL is an office which should be elected by the whole student body and why everyone should get to know the FDAL candidates. FDAL should represent the vote of the freshmen, but how much do freshmen know about ASCIT issues? I believe that the FDAL's main responsibility is to educate the freshman about all ASCIT issues so that then he/she can represent the *educated* opinion of the freshmen rather than *just* representing the opinion of the freshmen.

Who is Anton Shuster? I'm the only candidate large enough to be "at Large." In fact, I am at *extra large*. I believe that mostly

anyone can be elected for this office and there will not be a noticeable difference in the way that ASCIT runs things. ASCIT's behavior obviously depends on offices with much more responsibility like president and vice president. Nonetheless, FDAL is a vote. I believe that ASCIT should think twice before voting and that we should shy away from electing a BoD that is mostly from one house.

If I am elected FDAL, I will follow Warner's platform of communication, and when voting, I will always do my best to support the



Courtesy of A. Shuster

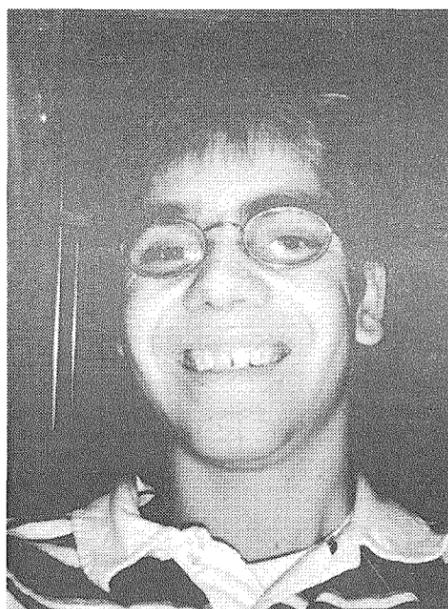
opinion of the minority.

Also, I'm awesome and love everyone :)

### Todd Gingrich

If you've decided to read The Tech this week rather than burning it in the nearest fireplace, then you've taken the first step toward voting for Todd for

Freshman Director-at-Large. The FDAL is well known for carrying out some small jobs such as delivering club checks, but clearly all of the candidates



courtesy of T. Gingrich

can easily carry out these menial responsibilities. I know it's tempting to vote for me because I'm good at minor tasks or because I happen to be the founder and king of the four-square club, but instead your decision should be based on the FDAL's responsibilities as a voting member of the BoD. This coming up year will see the BoD deal with several major problems: renovations, Avery's roll as a "house," and finding ways to spend all the surplus money from

raised ASCIT dues. The FDAL is generally the only freshman with influence over these decisions. It needs to be a person who can really push for what the freshmen desire. Furthermore, the FDAL must serve as a liaison between the freshman class and the BoD. As FDAL, I would increase this role as a liaison by better informing freshmen about opportunities through the BoD. The BoD still has a surplus, and there are ways that freshmen can use this money to start clubs, plan social events, or perform pranks. It is important that the freshmen learn of these opportunities in order to make full use of their ASCIT dues. I hope that you'll vote for me so I can work to improve communication between freshmen and the BoD.

# Tech Editor Candidates

## Adam Craig

You will find no picture of me accompanying this statement, because do not aspire to the position of model for the topless, full-color photographic spread on page two. Rather, I wish to edit the *California Tech* in order to restore to it the simple virtues of correct spelling, illuminative punctuation, proper grammar, and clean, clear, expressive prose style. While the current editors have valiantly labored against the hectic production cycle of the *Tech*, fluff and useless ornamentation have tainted the very words they fought so ardently to deliver into the hands of the studentry. Far too often has a news-loving

undergraduate bounded down to the lounge, giddy with the anticipation of paragraphs and captions, of facts and commentary, only to find her favorite publication bespattered with rhetorical questions and disingenuous imitation of casual patois, such as, "This year's Dabney Drag show was, well...a Drag," or, "Are we gonna let those ignoramuses, uh, I mean concerned members of the public, walk all over us?" While these are not direct quotes from the *Tech*, they illustrate stylistic gimmicks that distract from the writer's ideas instead of drawing attention to them. If elected co-editor of the *California Tech*,

with the Oxford English Dictionary and *Elements of Style* at my side, I will lay to rest all tired metaphors, banish all 'ROFFLS' and 'LOLs,' and carefully ration exclamation points.

However, I will also uphold the journalistic integrity of the *Tech*. I will work with the rest of the *Tech* staff and other contributors to ensure accuracy of facts, and insightfulness of commentary, and relevance to Caltech students of topic in all articles, columns, and other features. Lapses of clarity, such as the description of Ricketts House as "mostly white" using an unusually broad definition of 'white,' will cease. I will encourage commentary from as many different perspectives as time and space will allow. If that is still insufficient to express the diversity of student thought, we will expand the *Tech* into higher-dimensional space-time. Furthermore, I will search for new student talent to supplant the syndicated comic strips that have dominated the *Tech* for far too long. The only student-created comic currently running in the *Tech* is merely a pale imitation of the popular student-created strip *Crippling*

## Matt Walker and

## Sonia Tikoo

We hope you'll give us the chance to continue bringing an interesting paper every week. To improve on the *Tech* in the coming year, we're working on adding some sections to the newspaper. We plan to incorporate Sports, Features, and Entertainment sections, and hopefully, we'll be able to publish some more 12 page issues. Combining over 10 years of experience, we think we have what it takes to make the *Tech* a more exciting newspaper.

Sonia has been a quality re-

porter since the beginning of the year, and edited her school paper in high school. Matt has been the News Director for the past year and a half. We've cultivated a variety of contacts in these roles that help make us more effective editors. We also have experience with *Tech* equipment to professionally produce a quality publication. In the coming year, we'll continue to work hard to bring you, the reader, a timely and content-full paper with the school's most relevant news and commentary.

*Depression*. If you elect me, I will institute a comics corner with a new featured comic each week and a system by which readers can rank each comic, so that we can select well-received comics to appear on a weekly basis.

I hope to help fulfill the promise of the *California Tech*, to make it a newspaper for every Caltech Student. Whether you immediately turn to the spread on page two or aspire to someday model on page two, the *California Tech* will have something for you.

Sonia and Matt keep me well fed.



## Jon Malmaud

Salutations, Caltech undergraduate body! I'm Jon Malmaud, Lloyd frosh. Jewish. CNS. Current reporter for the *Tech*. You might remember me from such quality articles as "Goodstein Predicts End of Civilization" and "The Vagina Monologues VI: The Undiscovered Country" (they didn't keep the title). When I'm taking a break from doing scientific research on the effect of not going to lecture on quiz grades ( $r=-.8$ ), you'll usually find me cruising the Caltech academic scene, looking for scoops (reading the calendar to find out who's lecturing at Beckman that week).

Now, it is generally acknowledged amongst those several people who read the *Tech* that is perhaps lack the sparkle of the papers of our vine-covered counterparts. We need not submit to our ivy-bound breathe. I, not being a phys major, will actually have time to edit the articles I'm editor of, freeing them of grammatical bugs

once and for all. I have other doable ideas like adding more *Tech* comics (PvP, for instance) and having a column where profs and grads can write about their latest, coolest research. Just remember:

News for Nerds; Stuff that Matters; Vote for Jon; He has Jewish powers.



courtesy of J. Malmaud

## Stewardship Candidates

### Eddie Truong-Cao

I hate it when my house has maintenance problems. For example, I find it really annoying when the keypad to a door doesn't work, or when the urinals

along with the general upkeep of the houses, important to me, and I want to play a role in making sure our needs are met. With the coming of modular housing for

the next few years, we will encounter issues involving house decorations. I know that some people may find the new rules a little stringent, but I am sure that working with Housing, we will be able to resolve those issues.

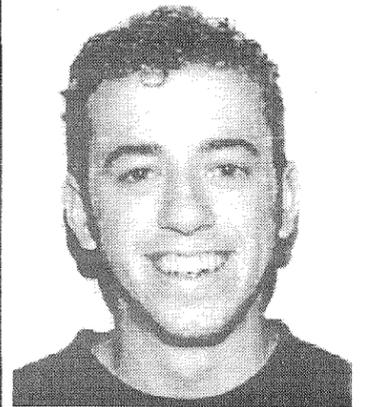
Knowing that I'll probably eventually be living in the trailers myself, I want



courtesy of E. Truong-Cao

continually overflow. I find these kinds of maintenance concerns,

### Philip Welch



to make sure we keep some freedom in those decorations and still maintain a good upkeep of the trailers. I want to keep our houses in good shape, and I really look forward to working with the Damage Reps and Housing to make sure they stay that way.

## UDAL Candidates

### Ryan Farmer

The Upperclassman at Large has typically been seen as an unimportant position in student government. However, with the recent changes, the UDAL will be the main contact for committee activity. As the current ASCIT Treasurer, I understand the need for more effective committee communication with the various student committees—the more students involved with a committee, the more effective the committee. Also, I have been actively involved with various committees over the past year. My prior experience on the BoD will help

the new Excomm during the next year—my understanding of the financial workings will be useful during the budget process and throughout the year.

Lastly, I will work to accomplish parts of the platform in my former presidential campaign: more student body involvement with sports, additional alumni interaction, and efficient use of ASCIT funds to support student activities. As your UDAL, I will work to represent upperclassmen interests and promote activities that are important to undergraduates.



courtesy of R. Farmer

## BOC Secretary Candidates

### Jean Sun

The question at hand is this: why, for the love of God and my precious, precious social life would I want to take up one of the bitchiest jobs on ASCIT? I've heard all the horror stories about the long, grueling hours and the brain-melting tedium, the headaches, the ulcers, the carpal tunnel, etc. Since this is supposed to be some sort of highly intelligent and alluring statement of sorts, I want to say something noble like, "I'm just a silly little bio major and, my goodness, isn't it just tragic that I don't suffer as much as all those hot, sexy physics and math majors? I believe, that to be fair, I should be punished for having copious amounts of free time (ha!) and thus be rightfully condemned to becoming BoC Secretary". That, as compelling as it is, doesn't quite fit how I really feel about all this. The simple and honest truth is this: I want to be

BoC Secretary because I believe it's a job that'll suit me very, very well. I can read, I can write and, as an added bonus, I'm diligent and obsessively organized (people's idea of a "clever" prank to pull on me is to mess up my closet. Sad, I know.). I've done volunteer work as an office secretary for a small business and, for the past two summers, I've worked as a research assistant to an anesthesiologist that was too busy to write his own research papers. As a result, I spent my entire summers editing, revising, and transcribing his work and ended up adding over 700 references (of which I browsed through about 300). As time-consuming as it is, this sort of work doesn't bother me because I know I can do it well.

My most important reason, however, doesn't have to do with my demented sense of diligence or how much job expe-

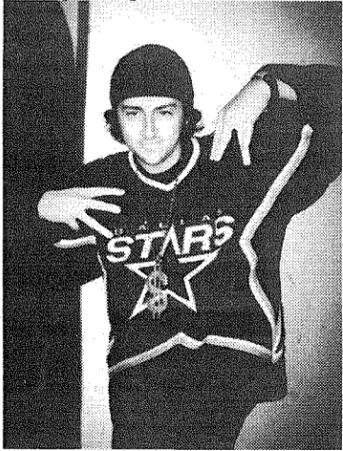
rience I have. I want to be BoC Secretary because I've sat in front of the BoC before (as a witness to a case), and I know how important it is that everything said is taken down quickly, accurately, and completely. I know how stories can change from day to day and from person to person, and how difficult it is to keep even your own story straight. This lack of consistency has nothing to do with honesty—everyone tends to see things a little differently and to overstate or understate certain events and observations. That's why keeping an accurate record is more than just a tedious procedure; it's a necessity that keeps the BoC on track and as impartial as possible. And, with the importance of that in mind, I believe that I can put my energies in the right place as BoC Secretary and (to end with a really tacky line) do the position justice.

# Class of 2006 Co-Presidents

## Kim Hiscox and Daniel Stolarski

To the Class of 2006, we propose a toast. Here's to us. Here's to three years of being pushed around by our work, our profs, occasionally each other, and especially the administration. We think the commencement speaker truly is important, and we'd like to say that we'll find a great one. The administration also thinks that the commencement speaker is very important, so of course they are not going to take much feedback from the students. If we were allowed to choose, we would say that we should have Shaquille O'Neal, because according to Stolarski, he is like the Pythagorean theorem, he has no solution. Kim's Dad knows his lawyer, we could totally hook this up, but then again there is no way that Baltimore would like that because Shaq's greatest scientific achievements are growing size 26 feet and that great film classic, "Kazaam." We're totally wondering about how a guy that huge comes out of a boom box in a puff of smoke. Conservation of energy? Ha, you in Shaq's house now!

Here's to overcoming difficulties and working with what we've got. To remedy the problem of having little power over the selec-



Courtesy of D. Stolarski

tion of the commencement speaker (a process in which we truly will fight for your rights and try to get us the best possible from the options presented by the admin.), we propose having a different ceremony earlier in the week of graduation in which we can invite our own speaker, selected by you, to come and speak, as well as allowing for other speakers, like profs who have been influential and cool, and for fellow classmates to get up and have a

chance to speak. We think it is ridiculous that there are no students speaking at graduation, and while no one wants to have lots of stuffy talks, we think it would be cool if a couple of people were able to get up at an informal "open mic" type party and share a story, a funny thing that happened, or a moment of zen. We don't really care what the CEO of Ford Motors, the guy who invented that thing that is important to some process that can only take place in an underwater lab on the surface of the moon while travelling at .8 times the speed of light, or one of Baltimore's old college buddies have to say about OUR time in here at Caltech.

Here's to Caltech. For the class gift, Stolarski thinks it should reflect the amount of respect and appreciation he feels the administration has had for us in the last 3 years, so his proposal won't be printed here. We aren't really sure what would be a good thing to get or do, but Kim's always wanted there to be an Avocado Walk because avocados are delicious. Whatever art we might get can be displayed proudly along with some of the other cool and sometimes crappy art around campus, maybe next to the shed by Throop pond. We have a lot of smart people, and Stolarski and Kim think we if we worked together we could build a great class gift rather than buy something impersonal and lame.

Here's to old traditions. Traditions can sometimes suck, but Ditch Day is not one of them. We'd like to keep it going as strong as possible by not messing with it, other than setting a date and hopefully looking into getting everyone more money to make their stacks rock. We'd like to keep Senior Social Hour also, as sponsored by ASCIT and maybe some other sources as well. It would be ideal if we could have a Senior Social Hour (sometimes called "keg week" sometimes called "hey, I haven't seen you since chem 1a") once a term, after finals, but that might be pushing it.

Here's to new traditions. Want to go back to frosh camp and have a reunion and everyone can be a star hopper just like the good old days and we'll all hold hands and sing around the fire? Sorry, it's not going to happen. Those days were just too beautiful. We could have a senior class retreat though.



Courtesy of K. Hiscox

It could be cool. Kim longs for her star-hopping days, but speaking of other types of stars... Why don't we ever have concerts on campus? No, we don't mean a cappella. We mean REAL concerts, with REAL bands. Bands that tour, bands that have videos on MTV or are too cool for that, bands your high school brothers and sisters have heard of before. We are pretty sure that we can make at least one concert happen, we've got Moore Hufstедler funds for a reason! It's there to improve student life! We propose having one concert a term, with the band playing to be determined by our senior class (hey, seniority has got to be good for something other than getting the "cool" trailer in the South House Compound). We're talking big names, people are cheaper than you'd think. Stolarski says Weezer. Kim says Red Hot Chili Peppers. Stolarski says Dave Matthews Band. Kim says Ludacris, Jay-Z, DMX, featuring a bunch of other guys especially Lil' Jon. Stolarski laughs really really hard, and Kim says "yeey-aaahh!" like Lil' Jon. You get the picture, we could get anyone, and it wouldn't be too hard. You know you want to feel like you are at a normal college. Here's a chance.

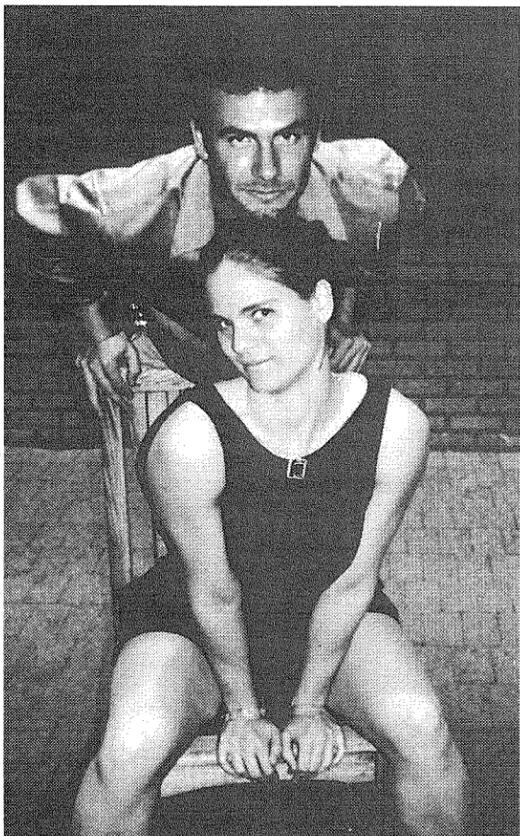
Here's to that chance. Daniel Stolarski and Kimberly Hiscox want to make it happen for you. Here's to taking the chance and making it all happen. Here's to the best year you'll have at Caltech.

## Jeremy Leibs and Shelby Montague

The senior class co-presidents need to be representative of all members of the senior class in all houses. They need to be people you recognize around campus and feel willing to come to when you have concerns. They also need to be people who will take the time to chat with you and find out your opinions. They need to be people who won't be easily pushed around

by the administration but will work within the system to achieve our goals.

Jeremy and I fit all of the above. If you disagree, then just don't vote for us. Vote for whoever you feel fills the above requirements the best. Go ahead, we don't mind. We want a good pair of people as our senior class co-presidents just as much as anyone else. We want the graduation speaker to be a choice of our class and not of the administration. We want the speaker to be someone representative of our class and/or Caltech in some way. We want Ditch Day to happen when we want it to happen (tomorrow, of course). If someone else is more qualified than we are to make these things happen then please, elect them. But we're going to vote for ourselves, and we suggest you follow suit.

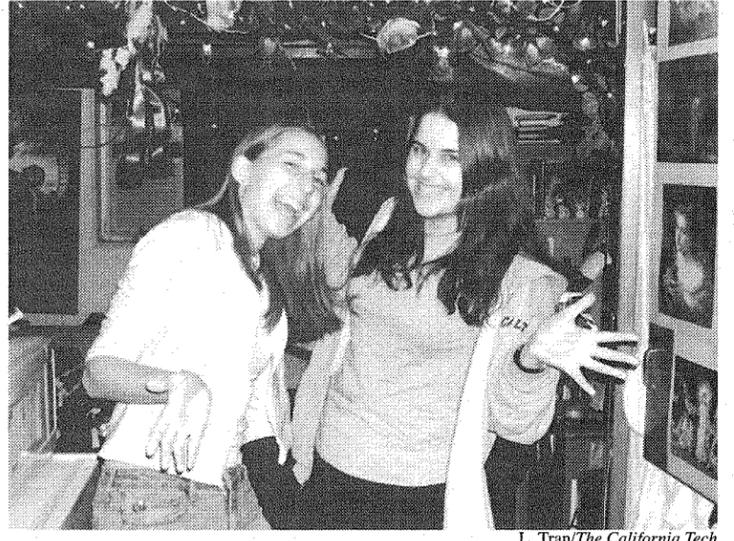


Courtesy of S. Montague

## Angelina Crans and Kimberly Pependorf

We like having fun. We like people. We like you people! We'd like you to have fun! That's why we're running for Senior Class Co-Presidents. In addition to being very personable, persuasive people, we're responsible, energetic, and committed, and will use these skills to make our senior year as fun and carefree as possible! We'll make sure that everyone's opinions are heard in planning senior class events, including parties, the barbecue, and commencement. We'll put

together a kick-ass senior class gift and make sure that Tomorrow is the best day ever! As for qualifications, we've got the hook-ups with essentially everyone who we'd need to work with around campus, and are totally on top of planning social events and organizing committees (experience as Lloyd Social D and IHC Chair, among other things). We hope to be a part of making your senior year the best ever, so vote happy! Kicks and giggles!! <3 Kim => & Angelina ^\_^



L. Tran/The California Tech

## Ryan Farmer and Corinna Zygourakis

Senior year is the pinnacle of our time here at Caltech: we're done with core, we've taken the toughest classes our major has to offer and, most importantly, we're moving on. Our success should be sealed with an exciting and memorable graduation, as well as a meaningful class gift. That's where the senior class presidents come in.

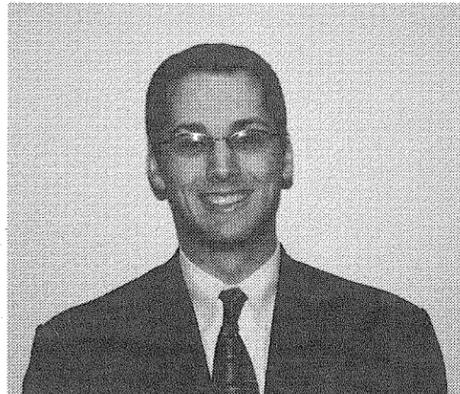
As you may have noticed, the Institute does not always invest its resources, or its connections, to entice a meaningful speaker that the senior class actually supports. The past several commencement speakers have been inspiring individuals, but have lacked the stature, interest, or appeal that many students desire. We can, and will, do a lot better. With our combined three years of service on the ASCIT BoD, we actually have the ability and experience to work with the administration and students to get an exciting, senior-approved speaker for our graduation. Think Kurt Vonnegut... Al Franken... Madonna... Ok, so probably *not* Madonna. The point is, however, that we will actually listen to the senior class when it

comes to choosing a speaker, and we will work with the administration to ensure that your ideas are realized.



Courtesy of C. Zygourakis

In addition to selecting a commencement speaker, the senior class presidents are also responsible for organizing the class gift and running social events. We have both been involved in planning class events (namely the sophomore C4 dinner and the upcoming junior picnic), and have worked for several years with the Alumni Fund that supports the senior class gift. And finally, as far as social events are concerned, we can't wait to combine our creativity with our organization skills to pull off some seriously fun events that bring together our entire class.



Courtesy of R. Farmer

# CRC Chair



## Elizabeth Shay

The CRC's mission should be to allow teachers the freedom to have fun without endangering the Caltech community. As CRC co-chair I will try to represent the student body while balancing the more conservative views of the committee. Having been through the process before, I have some knowledge of it from the student's perspective. We are a small community of reasonable individuals. By realizing that most problems can be solved within that community I hope to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and open communication.

## Jeremy Leibs

To be honest, the thought of running for CRC Co-Chair had never crossed my mind before last Tuesday. However, somebody nominated me to run for the position. I usually give myself a lot of time to think about things, and I'm a responsible person, so I'm taking this seriously. I'm comfortable with the situation. I understand the different situations at Caltech. In times like these, it's important to have someone who can represent the student body. If you have any concerns at all that might influence your vote please feel free to hunt me down in person or send me an email and I would be more than happy to answer any questions.

--Jeremy Leibs



## Alex Sheive

I didn't sign up for this; please don't vote for me. I don't even think I used that semi-colon properly. Vote for whomever has your best interests in mind. Or you could vote on another level by voting for whomever has the best interests of those who have your best interests in mind, in mind; this will get confusing very quickly.

-sheive

## Melody Grubbs

When we hear the term "honor code violation" many of us immediately think of academic violations; however, instances of non-academic honor code violations and policy violations must be dealt with as well and this is where the Conduct Review Committee (CRC) comes into play.

As many of you may or may not know, one of the primary jobs of the CRC co-chair is to determine whether or not a given case goes up for a hearing. As the CRC co-chairman and as a reliable and responsible person, I will do my best to see to it that cases are selected for a hearing and tried in an unbiased manner and that the reparations administered upon conviction are comparable to the magnitude of the offense.



## Rocky Velez

Dear Techer,

Is it just me, or has life on campus gotten stale, stuffy, and boring? Have you noticed that we haven't had a party before Apache since *last* term? And are you as annoyed as I am when you realize that when we *do* have some fun lined up for a weekend, it happens to coincide with another ever-so-rare fun event on campus? This needs to be fixed. Stat.

And so I recommend the following amendments to our (social) lives:

- Random event months (i.e. Comedy Club month, or Beach Trip month) to encourage Techers to try something new
- More stuff on campus, like concerts and special guests (maybe celebrities?)
- More off-campus events, since we won't have very much of an on-campus on which to do stuff next year
- A reinstatement of the Social Executive Committee, which would consist of house Social D's and some social representatives at large
- More interhouse mixing
- Intercollegiate mixing (It's certainly a worthwhile challenge!)
- Campus-wide "Assassins" (If you don't know what this is, ask

# ASCIT Social Director

## Dmitiry Kernasovskiy

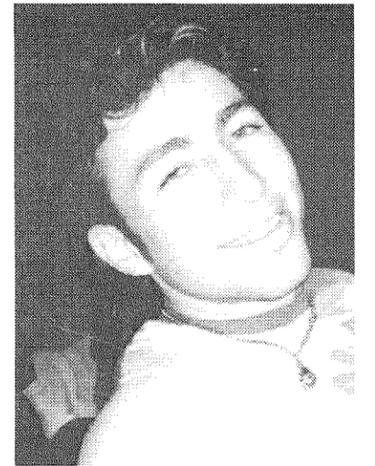
It's finally Saturday night! You are relaxed from sleeping in the night before and relieved knowing you can sleep in the next day and could forget about your sets until Sunday. Now, energetic and ready for fun, what do you do? After some strolling through campus, you find nothing especially interesting going on, and wind up doing whatever you normally do. Sound familiar? As techers, we like to work hard and play hard, but opportunities to have fun on campus are not as readily available as we would like. I believe that the mission of ASCIT Social Director is to create opportunities for students to get away from the normal stress of everyday life and have fun, relax, and enjoy themselves.

If you were to imagine the ideal social director, what values and qualities do you think that person would have that would make him right for the job? I know how to have fun, always meeting new people, seeking out new adventures, and often taking others along for the ride. More importantly, I know how to put together an event. For instance, I have helped organize the recent "Ace the Interview" panel by the Consulting Club, filling the Avery library with over 30 undergrad

and grad students. A couple of years ago I helped organize and promote off-campus parties and club events, planning, organizing, setting up, and passing out flyers. I have used this experience to arrange a professionally set-up sound system for the full ten hours of the upcoming Drop Day party in Dabney for \$300 (typical market prices is about \$600) and invited some of L.A.'s best DJs to spin for a fraction of what they normally charge.

In addition to the tried-and-true events such as the formal and opening night movie screening, I have some new ideas. For example, reading the ASCIT Dues survey, I learned that many of you want the additional funds to be spent on inter-collegiate parties. Thanks to the outgoing BoD, we now have an arrangement with the administration which makes this possible. Being from the area and having many friends from the surrounding colleges, I can make it happen. Finally, since many of us from the South Houses will be living in trailers in the upcoming year, throwing the traditional interhouse parties will be more difficult, which puts us in a good position to work with the administration to throw a campus-wide interhouse event.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement. I am sure you will vote for whatever candidate you believe best satisfies the values and qualities that you are looking for in your Social Director. Feel free to drop me a line at [dima@caltech.edu](mailto:dima@caltech.edu) or drop by Dabney 14 if you have any questions or ideas. And remember: in America, you can always find a party. In Soviet Russia, the party always finds you!!!



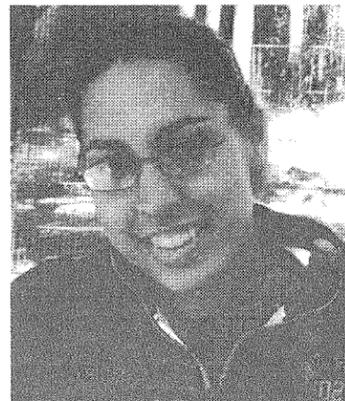
me - it's a *great* game, on par with Capture the Flag, only it lasts longer and involves more secrecy)

- More support for athletes (1/3 of the undergrad community participates in athletics; they give up their precious social life time for practices and games and should be supported!)

Now the real question is, even if I have all these grand ideas, will I be able to deliver? As former Lloyd Party Chair, I know what it takes (and to whom to talk) to put a party together. As a member of the Quality of Life SFC Committee, I'm already working with students and faculty to make Caltech a slightly less stressful place for undergrads. As a Health Advocate in Training, I know what happens when Techers get stressed out (and how to deal with it). And, as a genuinely fun-loving person, I know how to find the fun in even the most random of places. Finally, I'd like to mention that I've already started on my quest for Caltech social betterment! Check out my website, [www.its.caltech.edu/~rocky](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~rocky) for some fun and interesting things to do in the LA area, from clubbing, to bar hopping, to museum gazing, to paintballing... you name it, and it's either already there or can easily be added to the list.

So what are you waiting for? Vote for me, your local cure to the Caltech cabin fever!

Rocky Velez



Asian egg donor needed, Having a warm heart, intellectual, blood O or B. Confidential and compensate \$30,000. Contact: [blessfamily2000@yahoo.com](mailto:blessfamily2000@yahoo.com)

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# ASCIT Hopefuls Share Platform, Plans Before Upcoming Election

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

gatherings. "Ask any teacher on campus about ASCIT social events, and I'm sure that more often than not you'll get a response like 'What? ASCIT has social events?'" held Velez. "I think that definitely needs to change." Velez's key policy move would be to reinstate the defunct Social Executive Committee, which would coordinate houses' party schedules. She also promised more sports barbecues and ASCIT "social-theme months" such as beach month and comedy month.

Kernasovskiy wants more social events, particularly inter-collegiate gatherings, student interest in which a recent survey revealed. He also pledged to better advertise ASCIT events. "In the past year or so, I don't remember hearing about ASCIT events except for the formal and the opening night movie screening," he recalled.

"I will change this by organizing more events and advertising them with emails, flyers and any other possible channels."

But any social event calls for funding, and just who holds oversight over this remains a bone of contention among the current BoD. Specifically, outgoing President Galen Loram '05 would like to redelegate responsibility for club funding from the freshman director-at-large to the secretary. If the proposed retasking goes through, one of three secretarial candidates--Mike Easler '08, Parvathy Menon '08 or Meaghan Pacey '07--will take the reins of club funding.

Easler said he thinks club funding should be redelegated to the treasurer instead of the secretary, but added he'd be happy to help with anything. "To have two people with the ability to watch over fund allocation might actually lead to the use of funds in a more orga-

nized and cost-effective manner," he said. He also pledged to record minutes with a minimum of bias.

In contrast, Pacey called the retasking a great idea and said she'd be excited to work with clubs on everything from funding to keeping the concert band from getting kicked out of its rehearsal space. "Actually, clubs were the reason I became interested in running for ASCIT BoD in the first place," she said. She added that she'd like to see a poll on how students would like the surplus spent from ASCIT's recent dues hike.

Menon declined comment on the retasking. Her statement draws heavily on metaphor, calling herself "Erik BloodAxe, Viking Warrior, reborn with the task of bringing back the ASCIT glory days of old."

Instead of overseeing club funding, the new freshman director at large--one of Hanwen Yan '08 and Todd Gingrich '08--will be solely the BoD's liaison to freshmen.

Yan supports retasking club oversight to the secretary, but said he'd still accept the duty if called upon. Regarding freshmen, he called school spirit

their most pressing issue. "I simply don't feel very connected with the school and my fellow students," he said. "My job as FDAL will include designing innovative solutions which will provide freshmen... with a better sense of school spirit."

Gingrich declined comment on the retasking. His written statement emphasizes his insights on renovations, Avery and the ASCIT surplus. "The FDAL is generally the only freshman with influence over these decisions," he wrote. "I would increase this role as a liaison by better informing freshmen about opportunities through the BoD."

Another plank in the proposed retasking is a transfer of publications oversight from the upperclass director-at-large to the treasurer--either Franklin Jiron '06 or Kelly Lin '07.

Jiron said he welcomes the retasking, adding that the treasurer already works closely with publications. He pledged to ensure publication of the *little t* and *Big T*, but not to threaten their individual autonomy. "My main role will be to be a safety net, to... nudge people into completing their task, not to tell them how to do it."

Lin too supports the retasking. A two-time *Big T* editor herself, Lin's approach to timely publication stresses open communication. "I understand that it's not always the edi-

tors that delay the delivery of the publications," she said. "I will do my best to... make sure that deadlines are met and that these publications come out on time."

Burdened no longer with overseeing publications, the UDAL will become the BoD's interface to the student-faculty committees. Only one candidate, failed presidential nominee Ryan Farmer '06, is running for the spot. Farmer welcomed his new role. "I support this move because the BoD does not have enough contact with the committees that they appoint," he said. "Better communication will... amplify the undergraduates' voice in Institute affairs."

Rounding out the new BoD will be the new director of academic affairs, which doubles as an Academics and Research Committee chairmanship. Although the race has historically been fertile ground for less conventional candidates, this year's candidates are thoroughly dedicated to the ARC. The most prominent charge of this year's ARC chair-elect will be to organize this spring's Student-Faculty Conference.

Meng-meng Fu '05 hopes to focus on four major initiatives: decreasing the maximum number of units; adding humanities minors; revamping the core curriculum; and instituting a bioengineering major. Berglund declined questions, but his written statement lists among his goals an effective Student-Faculty Conference and "to increase the visibility of the ARC."

As always, besides the seven BoD seats up for election there is a medley of committee chairmanships, publication editorships and the senior class presidency up for grabs.

For *Tech* editorship, relative unknowns Adam Craig '06 and Jon Malmaud '08 are challenging the incumbent team of Matthew Walker '06 and protege Sonia Tikoo '08, widely thought one of the *Tech*'s rising news stars. Walker and Tikoo have plans for a 12-page paper with new features, sports and entertainment sections.

A one-term news writer, Malmaud also promised to add a features section, along with classified ads and a "What's coming up?" feature. Craig, a junior who has never written for the *Tech*, would leverage his experience writing e-mails to Ricketts' mailing list and a short story for the *Totem* to "improve the quality of writing, encourage more diverse commentary and cultivate student-created comic strips."

Also in contest are the senior class co-presidency, co-chairmanships for Conduct Review Committee and the new Stewardship Committee as well as the secretarial spot on the Board of Control. Polls open Tuesday online and on paper in Avery and the student houses.

# Glenn Decries Failure Of Education Funding

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

will put itself out. The ovens that they took into space had to have fans blowing the hot air around in order for the flames to stay lit.

Even moving around in space requires a lot of effort. In the space shuttle astronauts have stirrups everywhere to anchor themselves before performing any action. They also use duct tape for everything, in fact. Glenn laughs, "I don't think we could have gone into space without duct tape." Sleeping also takes some adjusting as there is no need for pillows when your head is gently pushed away from even the slightest pressure points.

Glenn feels strongly that "the reason we were up there is to do that basic, fundamental research" which is so important to human progress. The astronauts on the 1998 Space Shuttle Discovery mission including John Glenn and six others, had eighty-three different research projects to work on. Glenn recalls some of the more notable experiments that they performed. One such experiment was the Spartan Spacecraft, an 1800 pound independent craft, was brought up and then released into space to observe the Sun's radiation. They experimented on the molecular growth patterns of rice, the staple food of much of the Earth. They also grew larger and more pure crystals than could be performed in an environment with strong gravity. They created alloys of a different molecular structure than on earth and thus could be used for special purposes.

They also did aging studies on Glenn himself, which was, Glenn feels, the main reason that he was permitted to go into space again. NASA had compiled a list of fifty-three different things, such as osteoporosis, protein replacement, coordination changes, weakened immune system, sleep patterns, and many more, that happen to astronauts when they go up into space.

About nine of these also happen to elderly people on Earth. The younger astronauts who go

up eventually recover from these changes, and NASA wanted to see whether John Glenn, who had already experienced some of these properties due to natural aging on Earth, would have a similar reaction. They also wanted to know if he would recover from the changes as well as the younger astronauts did in order to learn ways to make it possible for younger astronauts to stay up longer or possibly even to get clues about the causes of aging in humans on Earth.

Glenn then began to narrate a twenty-minute silent video of his recent space flight. He explained, in great detail, everything that was going on from take-off to landing. Glenn concluded the space portion of his talk by commenting on the importance of the Space Station and how the current government needs to do more to fund research. Thus Astronaut John Glenn ended his speech and Senator John Glenn's speech began.

Glenn feels that the United States' emphasis on "the area of research, is why we've gone ahead of the other nations on Earth." He also feels that the wide availability of public education in the past, had allowed the United States to become the most well educated nation on earth. He criticized the current government for undermining these factors that once made our nation so great by both the cut-backs in research and the failure to adequately fund education.

During Glenn's time as a senator, he was on a committee to find out what was wrong with our education system. The committee concluded that a large number of teachers teach in a field that they never studied, and that "almost 30% of teachers, in most fields, leave the profession in three years, and 50% are gone in five years." Glenn blames the United States' lack of education on the fact that the national government is one of the few governments who still refuse to have some sort of national education system, even though the local levels are not doing a good



Courtesy of www.invent.org

Former astronaut and Ohio Senator John Glenn spoke in Pasadena on Tuesday as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series.

enough job educating our youth. In order to compete in the new global world, the United States needs to do a better job with education and research.

John Glenn began his career in the military. He became an astronaut and a national hero. He served four terms as a Democrat-

ic Senator from Ohio, and then he went into space once again. Throughout his many great accomplishments, John Glenn has been committed to education, research, and, above all else, to his country. Though he may not admit it, he truly is a great man and a national hero.

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