

## Midterms week can be pleasant



Photo by Matthew Glassman

Ben Zax, a freshman in Page, flips through his Math 5 textbook in preparation for midterms. Midterms week extends from last Wednesday to this Wednesday.

## The Tech now online

### TECH STAFF

The *California Tech* now has a user-friendly niche on the internet at tech.caltech.edu. The site, created by junior Michael Comstock, will update every Tuesday to include articles and photos from the paper version of the *Tech*.

Previous *Tech* editors David Chen, Jon Malmoud, and Jon Senn were successful in creating the *Tech*'s first website last year, which posted archived PDF's. However, the site was restricted to Caltech IP addresses. The new website was unveiled on April 13 when it linked to the prank edition of the MIT newspaper.

The new site uses basic HTML and CSS to display articles and relevant photos. Plans for the site include a search option, "This week in photos", and forms for submitting article ideas to the *Tech*.

"It's been fun working on the site," said Comstock. "It has been nice putting the *Tech* on the Internet in a visually appealing and simple way. It's been hard doing it under a harsh deadline, but I look forward to making many improvements and adding more interactivity."

## Chameau names Stolper new provost

BY VIBHA LALJANI

President Chameau announced on April 18 that geologist Edward M. Stolper will step up as Caltech's new provost on Aug 1, 2007, replacing three-year provost Paul Jennings.

In affirming the appointment of Professor Stolper as provost, Kent Kresa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees said in Chameau's email, "Through his service as division chair and interim provost, the members of the Board of Trustees have come to admire Ed Stolper's unique combination of energetic leadership and focused dedication to the Institute's academic and research mission, as well as the depth of his commitment to Caltech's faculty and students."

The members of the Provost Search Committee spent four months choosing the new provost. In Chameau's e-mail, Professor Paul Wennberg, who served as chair of the faculty search committee, noted that "Ed Stolper is an engaging and energizing

Please see **PROVOST**, Page 3

## Math, fruit flies, and video games for scholars

BY MARISSA CEVALLOS

Unicyclists, video game programmers, and fruit fly enthusiasts were among the handful of undergrads honored at the 2007 Undergraduate Academic Awards last week.

Creative contributions to research and top-notch GPAs qualified six undergrads for the prestigious awards and a lunch in the Athenaeum.

The winners, Alex Alemi, William Clark, Matthew Fisher, Po-Ling Loh, Vickie Pon, and Huan Yang were hand-selected to receive named awards by professors.

### Meet the Scholars

**George W. Green Prize: Alex Alemi**

A sophomore in Physics, Alemi won the George W. Green Prize for his research with Professor David J. Stevenson on why Venus lacks a moon, featured in December's *Scientific American*. The prize is given for original research or creative scholarship beyond class work. Alemi, who is currently taking 54 units, was matched up with Professor Stevenson last summer as part of Ph 11, a selective research-based

physics course.

**Jack E. Froehlich Memorial Award: William Clark**

The video game expert Clark won the Froehlich award as a student with creative career path—the junior CS major is the lead programmer at a start-up video game company this summer.

"My interest in using my graphics research in video games was apparently creative enough for the group who selects the winner," said Clark. His favorite game is *Metrod Prime* for Gamecube.

When he isn't spending 40-50 hours a week on his work, Clark sings and plays guitar for his band Moneyshot Mafia and is slowly making his way through every South Park episode with his girlfriend.

**Arie J. Haagen-Smit Memorial Award: Vickie Pon**

Pon's research on how fruit flies detect scents is one of her many achievements, as her prize recognizes a chemist or biologist who has shown academic promise and made recognized contributions in research to Caltech. The junior in biology, also former ASCIT secretary, is active in the Caltech Y.



Photo courtesy of Nora DeMuth

Pictured from left to right: William Clark, Victoria Pon, Huan Yang, Po-Ling Loh, and Matthew Fisher. Alex Alemi is not pictured.

**Housner Award: Matthew Fisher and Huan Yang**

Matthew Fisher, a senior in Computer Science, and Huan Yang, a senior in Physics, received this year's Housner awards for an outstanding piece of original scientific research. Though Yang confesses he spends about 10 hours per day on work, and is often found in lab on Saturday nights, he still gets out enough to play basketball in his free time. Fisher enjoys cooking, reading, swing dancing and, when he's bored, riding his unicycle.

**Fredrick J. Zeigler Memorial Award: Po-Ling Loh**

Sophomore math major Loh, winner of the Perpall speaking award for her pure math SURF, said the math department liked her "knack for explaining math to a non-mathematical audience." The Zeigler is given to a pure or applied math student who has shown excellence in the classroom or in research. In her free time, the Avery UCC sings in the Caltech Glee Club and is a member of the Caltech Christian Fellowship.

### In This Issue

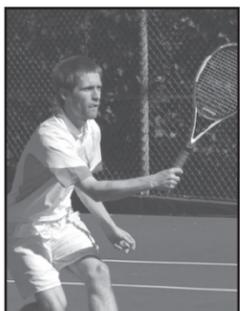
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From the Editors

# Keep admissions blind, not crippled

BY VALERIE SYVERSON

Yesterday morning, a Directory memo arrived by e-mail with the unexceptional headline "Two New Committees for Student Affairs". Most Techers probably skipped over reading it, especially since it was rather long, but this one was worth the effort, because buried three-quarters of the way into the text was the following statement:

"The Task Force on Admissions is asked to formulate recommendations that will:

- Improve Caltech's ability to enroll students who also are admitted to our top competitors

- Increase the representation of women amongst undergraduate students

- Increase the representation of underrepresented minorities amongst undergraduate students.

Furthermore, the Task Force on Admissions is asked to make a recommendation as to whether Caltech should continue the historic practice of primarily considering individuals and their qualifications in making admissions decisions or whether increased consideration should be given to the composition of each entering cohort."

Calling this a truly unfortunate idea doesn't seem too much of an exaggeration. After all, as the memo acknowledges, Caltech's historic approach to admissions has always been demographics-blind – a factor which renders it unique among schools of its academic caliber.

It seems to me that part of the conflict here might be a conceptual incompatibility between what's taught to admissions officers and what's historically been the Caltech approach. In politics as well as in large-scale business, the soundest policy is often to "move to the center" in terms of the clientele targeted; we see this in the increased normalization of business marketing tactics, in the swing of the major U.S. political parties during national elections, and in this new set of goals aimed at changing Tech's admissions policies. A couple of decades of this approach has shown that it works well to improve demographic diversity at large schools. However, in terms of college-as-business – and that mentality seems to be what's put us in the situation of considering this change -- Caltech is a niche product which caters to a small, highly-special-

ized segment of the higher-education market. The large-university "business model" which works even at other elite universities such as MIT and Berkeley isn't, I think, really applicable to the position Caltech fills in this system.

Is it, perhaps, more useful to consider it in terms of an ecological model? Not every organism

lution by an order of magnitude. The truth is that there aren't very many people suited to this university, even among our already-biased applicant pool. Surely it's a difficult enough task already for our admissions office to pick out those people who will thrive here, without asking them also to take into account other traits such as

race and sex.

*Surely it's a difficult enough task already for our admissions office to pick out those people who will thrive here, without asking them also to take into account other traits such as race and sex.*

The real problem that keeps women and minorities from being proportionally represented at Caltech isn't one we can solve here – it's a wider problem in the culture at large, a failure of education and encouragement at primary and secondary educational levels which keeps smart

kids from pursuing the interests that would bring them here. This is something that needs changing, but the way to do it isn't to profile the prefrish, it's to improve the level of cultural and institutional support for students at all levels of society so that they can, if they choose, become the kind of people who would do well at Tech. I think everyone knows this.

With that in mind, there's no reason to impose such additional

criteria on our admission process – to try to turn Caltech into another MIT or Harvard or Stanford. The marketing department has given us the slogan "There's Only One Caltech", but this new attempt to change our historical admissions policy smacks rather of another attempt to swing Caltech toward the mainstream. Like it or not, we're a weird little niche of academia, and it seems a pity to try to become anything else. Let's keep it weird.

*If you have comments on this issue, please contact the Task Force on Admissions.*

*Chairs: Geoff Blake (Professor of Cosmochemistry and Planetary Science and Chemistry), Richard Bischoff (Director of Undergraduate Admissions).*

*Members: David Busse (interim Director of Financial Aid), Maria Gutowski (undergrad), Brandi Jones (Director of Minority Student Education), Niles Pierce (Associate Professor of Applied Mathematics and Bioengineering), Erin Schuman (Professor of Biology), Michael Woods (undergrad).*

## "The Caltech Myth": passion pummelled by problem sets?

Debate over whether Caltech is a "good" institute still ongoing

*"The Caltech Myth" in historical context: Is the intellectual "trial by fire" productive or stifling?*

BY CRAIG MONTUORI

For the rest of the term, I'd like to address 'the Caltech Myth,' which several students over past decades have examined. For each of them, the Myth is something different. It is based on popular, external perception, as well as how we perceive ourselves to be seen by the rest of the world.

Most recently, in 2003, Ted Jou wrote about the decades-long struggle to improve Caltech, through programs like the Student-Faculty Conference (SFC). Looking at another source, the 1985 Cain Report on admissions said that Caltech is perceived as a "narrow, grim school" by high school students and admissions officers. Ted also quoted heavily from a 1968 article by Joe Rhodes, claiming it was only a myth that Caltech was a "good educational institute." Ted also references what he calls the first reference to the Myth in 1949, by Bernard Shore, talking about Techers "intense intellectual curiosity" being restrained by the academic workload, restricting Techers to "a preconceived pattern that ignores individual differences, needs, abilities, and interests."

Clearly, we've had these introspective periods where we look within the institute to try to find ways to improve. Why now? What better time, than with a new President, a new Provost, a new VP of Student Affairs (and a new Student Affairs, for that matter)?

For the rest of the year and throughout the summer, we stu-

dents have a chance to contribute to once-in-a-decade changes as President Chameau settles in with his new vision for the institute. For the undergrads to have a proper voice, we just need to have a perspective of the institute as long ranging as any faculty and as full of memories throughout past decades as the collective alumni association. Additionally, as Tech has changed, so has the perception of Tech, both from within and from the wider world. In this article, I look at how we have perceived ourselves through a few voices from the late 60s and early 2000s.

To begin, I'll begin with Joe's central question, of whether or not Caltech is a "good educational institute." Joe argued that an undergraduate education is not just hurling academic information at a student in the hopes that he or she absorbs some of it, saying "[The students] feel; they can be destroyed." He seemed to reference today's current admissions policy of looking for students with passion, but said that during that time, they were so constrained by the curriculum that their passion was crushed by the drudgery of doing endless sets and meaningless introductory lab experiments. However, the core of his argument was that these myths were lacking any foundation in fact, especially the "Caltech is a good educational institute" statement, which made up the major amount of the following article (25 April 1968).

On the other hand, Ted argued that the process by which the institute is improved is a decades-

long process. His arguments showed a belief that the students are transient; that by disappearing in around four years and having all memory of them lost within a decade, students must rely on the faculty to respond to and address complaints. Where Joe's article opened with something like, 'Caltech is a great place. Actually, this is just a myth, not the reality,' Ted's article expressed the hope to improve the state of the institute to make Joe's version of the Myth a reality (10 April 2003).

*In an age where students across the nation are still faced with ever increasing amounts of information that must be learned to attain a basic level of competence in a field, where do we pick up our analytic thinking skills that make Tech graduates so notable?*

Let's also look at some of the arguments that other students (and a professor) used to argue against Joe.

Mark Jackson '69 believed that Joe's argument about what we today refer to the "like drinking from a fire hose" effect of the Tech education was overstated. He argued that by throwing endless information and material at us, we are being taught the analytic thinking that makes processing this information possible. He says, "If the information flow seems excessive at times, it is precisely because of the 'massive information increase' Rhodes cites; the alternative is an increasing gap between what a Caltech graduate should know and what he does know."

I would respond with a question: in an age where students across the nation are still faced with ever increasing amounts of information that must be learned to attain a basic level of competence in a field, where do we pick up our analytic thinking skills that make Tech graduates so notable?

I'd argue that we get these skills from our Housemates and (to a lesser extent) from our TAs, who teach the specifics of material that professors only touch on.

It is one thing to write down and pore over the theory that gushes at us from classes, but another to sit down and solve the sets, some of which have problems that would be unsolvable if it were not for that senior who did that problem last year or someone like Rob Forester, who goes over the problems and materials to make sure years of undergrads understand the Phys 1a material.

These arguments naturally focus quite narrowly on academic quality, breadth, and variety, attempting to put constraints on answering the deep question of whether or not Caltech is a "good educational institute." They ignore many other factors affecting 'goodness,' but that's about all I can get from 900 words, sad to say.

Next week, I want to look at Joe Rhodes's second part of his 'The Caltech Myth' series, where his views on Tech's failings in promoting a well-rounded Techer again provoke an interesting response. From his writings, Ted's comments, and our awareness of today's Tech, by the end of the year I hope to reach some sort of conclusion about the state of Caltech today.

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# The Outside World



BY VALERIE SYVERSON

## SCIENCE & LAW

### Efficacy, humanity of lethal injection questioned

Lethal injection with a three-drug "cocktail" has been the standard for death-penalty executions in thirty-seven states since its invention thirty years ago. However, a recent study shows that the implementation of the procedure varies widely between states, drawing questions as to whether it is an inhumane method of execution.

The standard set of drugs administered consists of sodium thiopental as anaesthetic, pancuronium bromide as paralytic, and potassium chloride to stop the heart.

However, the study, published in PLoS-Medicine last week, found that the dosages of anaesthetic administered to the executed were widely variable within and between states, varying from 6 to 70 mg/kg body weight. In some cases, the dosages administered were barely sufficient for

surgical anaesthesia, and in many cases were not adjusted for body weight or drug resistance; furthermore, the cardiac arrest usually caused by potassium chloride often does not occur, possibly due to interference from the other drugs.

The study concludes that many executed prisoners may be conscious as they suffocate, rather than killed painlessly as is the intention.

These findings, as well as concerns over competent administration of the injections, raise questions regarding the constitutionality of lethal injection under the 8th Amendment. Proposed solutions include the use of carbon monoxide or the guillotine, as well as calls for a total ban on the death penalty.

### U.S., China cooperate to weaken UN climate policy

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s proposed plan for fighting climate change is too strong for the U.S. and China.

In their initial comments on the IPCC policy as drawn up

by a panel of scientists, the two countries advocate a higher cap on greenhouse gases and a slower timeframe for reducing emissions, as well as inserting language into the report stating that the cost of available current technologies to reduce emissions "could be unacceptably high".

Their position is expected to anger island nations and other countries already feeling the impact of global warming.

The plan, under discussion at the IPCC conference in Bangkok, must be unanimously approved by the 120 governments represented. The final report will be issued Friday.

## U.S. POLITICS

### Accused DC madam will sell client list for defense \$\$ unless charges dropped

Deborah Palfrey, accused of running a prostitution ring in Washington, has vowed to reveal her client list to pay her legal defense bills unless charges against her are dropped.

Palfrey claims her business was an escort, adult phone-fantasy,

and massage service only, and not in violation of any laws. However, she claims to have a list of more than 1000 phone numbers, some from elite Washingtonians, which would nonetheless be embarrassing to many if revealed.

Former head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Randall Tobias, resigned last week after his name was the first to be

revealed. Denying legal violations, he nonetheless resigned "for personal reasons". Palfrey expressed her sympathy, but renewed her threats to reveal clients if proceedings continue. Her attorney claims she has given four years of phone records to ABC News.

Compiled from CNN, AP, New Scientist

## Stolper will replace Jennings

PROVOST, FROM PAGE 1

presence in our community. His passion for and intimate knowledge of the Institute greatly impressed the search committee."

Professor Kip Thorne said Chameau's email, "Ed Stolper knows and understands our Caltech community, and its diverse cultures and components, extremely well. As provost he will make wise decisions, based on consultations with members of our community, on our shared core values, and on a vision for strengthening Caltech's greatness."

Professor Stolper, William E. Leonhard Professor of Geology, has been a member of the Caltech

community for 28 years. After receiving his Ph.D. in geological sciences from Harvard in 1979, he came to campus as an assistant professor. He was promoted to Associate professor in 1982 and professor in 1983. Professor Stolper was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1994.

While simultaneously conducting research, Stolper was the acting provost in 2004 and served as the Executive Officer for Geochemistry between 1989 and 1994. He was Chair of the division of Geological and Planetary sciences from 1994 to 2004.

## ASCIT Minutes: April 25, 2007

### DVD on website; Tucker Max may visit

Officers Present: Chris Gonzales, Andrea Dubin, Angela Zah, Mike Woods, Ekta Bhojwani, Patrick Herring, Zack Higbee, Daryl Coleman

Guests: Ellen Hsu, Christine Parry, Erin Flanagan, Stephen Wilke, David Liu, Robin Abraham

#### \*Funding requests

-Blacker, Lloyd, and Fleming request their multihouse funding for the trip to magic mountain on Friday. Approved (7/0/0)

-Robin Abraham requested interhouse funding for BFP, Fleming's interhouse. Approved (6/0/1)

-Ellen Hsu requested interhouse funding for Lloyd interhouse. Approved (7/0/0).

-Christine Parry and Erin Flanagan want to bring Tucker Max to campus. They would like funding for flyers and food. He has already agreed to come. Parry and

Erin will come back next week with more details and specifics about funding. They will talk to the office of public events about a place to hold the event.

-David Liu from AICHE requested funding to take all the profs in Chemical Engineering (12) and about 30 students to lunch. This would cost about \$1000, which would swamp our budget. We want students to take the initiative to talk to the faculty on their own about going to lunch. ASCIT can subsidize some of it, but first David will see how much the ChemE department will fund. John Hall also said he would fund faculty social events, so that might be another possibility for funding

-The art committee needs \$40 to buy hangers to put up a display of ditch day shirts. Requested by Patrick. Approved (6/0/0)

#### \*Other News

-Gonzo will get on the Bylaw changes. He has been meaning to revise them, but hasn't had time.

-Ekta reported that Tom Mannon wants to make up for pre-frosh weekend and has offered to do a fireworks display at some other time this term. We need to come up with a time to do it. The night before commencement was suggested as a possibility.

#### \*DVD library

-The DVDs are now up on the library's website and are ready for check-out.

#### \*IHC News

-The IHC decided that the cannon painting was not a rotation violation

Good Luck on Midterms!

Andrea Dubin

ASCIT Secretary

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Chameau talks about teaching

Sponsored by CPET  
Tuesday, May 1, 2007  
5 PM, Come early for refreshments  
Beckman Institute Auditorium

Caltech is a premier institution for scientific research, but how can it improve its quality of teaching? The new Caltech president will discuss what role teaching plays at a tech school and he will describe his own teaching experience.

Bring your questions and suggestions for President Jean-Lou Chameau at this Q&A forum! This discussion takes place at 5 PM at Beckman Institute Auditorium on May 1, 2007. Come early for refreshments.

This event is sponsored by CPET, Caltech Project for Effective Teaching. Visit our website at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~cpet/>.

### Book sale Friday and Saturday

The annual Friends of Caltech Libraries book sale will be held on Friday, May 11, 2007 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and on Saturday, May 12, 2007 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on campus in the Winnett Lounge.

For Caltech faculty, students, and staff: During this event, when you become a new member of The Friends of Caltech Libraries, you will receive 1/2 off your membership dues and a 25% discount on books purchased that day! New

memberships will be accepted on both days. For further information about the sale, please telephone (626) 395-6411. For additional information about The Friends of Caltech Libraries, please visit: <http://library.caltech.edu/friends/>

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## Tennis closes hopeful for next year



Photo by Mandy Gamble

Sophomore Chen Yee Liaw returns the ball in a singles match against Colorado College on March 18. Liaw is ranked fourth in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association West Region rankings.

## NOTABLE VICTORIES IN 2007

### Men

**Biola, 5-4**

**La Sierra, 6-3**

### Women

**Mills, 8-1**

**Cal Luth, 6-3**

**La Sierra, 6-3**

## Tennis in review

BY NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

### MEN

After having some ups and downs, the men's tennis team finished 7th out of 8 in SCIACs, defeating Whittier at the Championship this Friday and Saturday.

The season was difficult, as the team lost almost an entire starting line from last year after the seniors graduating. Composed of mostly freshmen and sophomores, Beavers did not have a single senior and had a hard time competing with larger, more experienced teams.

The team dropped one place in SCIACs last year, when it placed 6th in the final round. The 2006 season also saw a higher number of wins outside the championships, with four victories during the season as compared to this year's two.

The team started off strong, winning their second match of the season with a score of 6-3 against La Sierra University. However, the promising start was followed by a string of thirteen losses against other conference teams, only broken up by a close 5-4 win over BIOLA University. The championships, which took place at CLU, witnessed the team defeat Whittier with a score of 5-3.

The match was very close, with Eric Tai (JR) battling #6 Whittier player in the deciding match. The match went into third set, which started with Tai in a tight situation, being down 2-5. However, he starting battling back and brought the score to 6-5 in his favor. The match ended unacceptably with a default victory for Caltech after Tai's opponent was unable to continue due to physical condition.

Co-captain Vivek Narsimhan (JR) said about the champion-

ships, "We had some really good effort, and we lost against Whittier when we played them before. It shows us that we can improve and that we actually peaked at the end of the season."

The outlook for the upcoming year is quite positive, as the team does not have seniors to lose, unlike the previous year.

### WOMEN

The women also had an intense championships experience, coming very close to placing 5th in the conference. They fell just short into 6th place out of 8 teams competing, ranking above both Cal Lutheran and Whittier. The match against La Verne, which decided the final ranking, concluded with a score of 4-5, with the deciding game going into third set.

Sophomore Chen Yee Liaw played her way to earn a spot on the SCIACs 1st Team, an honor reserved to eight women in the entire conference field. Liaw also ranked fourth in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association West Region rankings.

Throughout the season, the team was able to defeat La Sierra University and Cal Lutheran with a score of 6-3 in both games. They also decidedly defeated visiting Mills College with a score of 8-1.

The team, which has improved significantly since the beginning of the term, is going to lose two of its starter players, Diana Lin and Kelly Lin, who will graduate in June.

Nevertheless, the team's performance this year gives much hope for the year to come. "We're proud to be competitive within the league," said freshman Leslie Tong. Hopefully, the team will continue to be competitive next season as well.

## NFL Draft not what it's cracked up to be

BY HARRISON STEIN

In a National Football League typically devoid of extended amounts of excitement, it was probably too much to ask to follow an exhilarating regular season with a similarly riveting draft.

There was very little intrigue in this year's two day extravaganza, as the first round was pretty predictable, the second round lasted for ages, the second day had just two recognizable names (Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith and traded NFL receiver Randy Moss), and the teams combined for zero blockbuster trades.

A quarterback went #1 for the 6th time in 7 years, the Detroit Lions took a receiver in the first round for the 4th time in 5 years, and the champion Colts drafted even more offense.

As expected, the Oakland Raiders selected LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell with the first pick. Russell immediately becomes the NFL's strongest, but also its most scrutinized quarterback as he never won any "big" games at LSU and had two first round receivers (Craig Davis and Dwayne Bowe) at his disposable.

Nonetheless, a dormant franchise can't be picky and after turning down sure-fire star Matt Leinart last year, the Raiders had to strike gold in this draft. At the least, Russell should reinvigorate the team and at best, he could be the next Steve McNair.

Eschewing public ridicule and choosing the best player available instead of addressing other glaring holes, Detroit Lions GM Matt Millen drafted another receiver, Georgia Tech's Calvin Johnson. With an unbelievable mix of speed, size and strength, Johnson is the best receiver to come into the draft since...Detroit's Charles Rogers.

Unfortunately for Lions fans, Rogers was a disaster and is now out of the league. Hopefully, the returns will be slightly higher for Johnson as the Lions have been an unfortunate mess since savior Barry Sanders retired.

The Browns surprised the pundits by passing on princely Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn, but then surprised them again by giving a king's ransom to re-enter the first round when Quinn was still available at pick 22.

Cleveland gave Dallas its second round pick and next year's first for Quinn who will team up with mammoth tackle Joe Thomas, this year's top pick. The trade might be risky, but with one winning season in the last ten years, this was a risk the Browns had to make.

In addition, the Redskins drafted safety LaRon Landry even though they already have one of the best safeties in the game (Sean Taylor), the Texans drafted a young defensive lineman, 19 year old Amobi Okoye, even though they did the same thing last year

(Mario Williams), and the Falcons took someone named Jamaal Anderson probably in memory of the old days when Jamal Anderson was their star running back.

Other than that, the lengthy draft was pretty ordinary as most teams filled their biggest needs with reasonable picks. Teams that typically draft poorly—the Redskins, Dolphins and Vikings—drafted poorly again, and teams that typically draft well—the Bears, Patriots and Panthers—did so again.

Both NCAA championship participants were well represented in the draft. The Dolphins took Ohio State speedster Teddy Ginn about 10 spots too high, and the Colts took his receiver teammate Anthony Gonzalez to bolster the best receiving corps in the NFL. Florida had two players, Jarvis Moss and Reggie Nelson, drafted from their dominant defense.

There was very little intrigue after the first round because most of the top players were actually picked in the first round. Carolina picked sliding USC receiver Dwayne Jarrett which should be interesting because Jarrett and future teammate Keyshawn Johnson have a well-publicized feud.

Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith was thoroughly exposed in the championship game shellacking by Florida and fell all the way to the bottom of the fifth round, although he is in a good position with the Ravens. Some guy named Ramzee Robinson was

Mr. Irrelevant, the last pick in the draft.

Since NFL General Managers are (usually) smarter than us, it's really hard to tell what teams succeeded and which failed. I can assign grades for the drafts, but the odds are, I'll look like an idiot three years from now.

JaMarcus Russell can become

a Hall of Fame quarterback or he can just as easily become Ryan Leaf. Calvin Johnson might be the next Jerry Rice, or the next Charles Rogers. Therefore, let's just say the NFL draft was very, very long and I wish I could have my Saturday back!

## Next week in sports

**Men and women's Ultimate frisbee teams compete in Regionals**

**Women's water polo wraps up**

**Track seasons winds down**

HOUSING OFFICE CORNER

UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER HOUSING LOTTERY INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm - Summer Housing Request / Lottery Forms must be submitted on-line at: <http://housing.caltech.edu/undergrad/>

Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm - Housing Office posts Lottery Numbers

Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm - Seven Houses summer picks due to Housing Office

Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm - Housing Office re-posts Lottery Rankings

Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm - Unaffiliated summer lottery for remaining off-campus spaces (Housing Office - Center for Student Services, building 86)

Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> 5:00pm - Summer Contracts due to the Housing Office



If you have questions, please contact us or stop by our office!

Housing Office  
Center for Student Services, Building 86, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Ext. 6176 / Email: [housing@caltech.edu](mailto:housing@caltech.edu)  
<http://housing.caltech.edu/undergrad/>

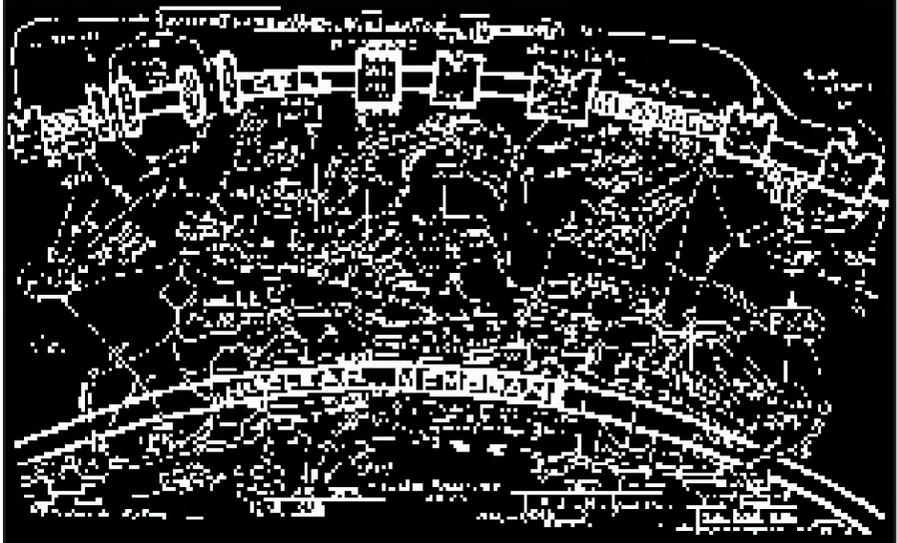


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# COACHELLA MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

## And a mini concert review of the Red Hot Chili Peppers

BY CINDY KO

Every spring term, I have the choice of whether or not to squeeze an ultra fun trip to Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival into my midterms weekend. Of course, if I do, I have plenty of work to make up when I come back, but hopefully the experience of seeing all my favorite bands at once is more than worth it.

Coachella is a two-to-three day weekend in the desert where rock bands, DJs, and other big name performers play for the whole entire day. Typically, the number of attendees reaches upwards of 25,000 people. Where do you put that many people, plus four performance stages, eatery areas, shade tents, film tents, life-size art pieces, etc? A polo field!

Yes, nothing like acres and acres of flat grass to have a weekend party for 25,000. Coachella has been often compared to the Woodstock of yore; in fact, in its inaugural year, it was the "anti-Woodstock," promising to make up for the shortcomings and disastrous happenings of Woodstock '99.

Thanks to Coachella creator and front man of Jane's Addiction, Perry Farrell, Coachella always seems to boast the best line-ups of the year. In the past, it's had Bjork, The Strokes, Weezer, The Cure (who had not officially played as a band since the 80s), Kraftwerk, Coldplay, Radiohead, The Chemical Brothers, and the list goes on.

Furthermore, Coachella seems to have the magical power of reuniting legendary bands like The Pixies and most recently, Rage Against the Machine.

This year, due to my stupidly full schedule and unwillingness to fork over hundreds of dollars for a three-day pass, I decided to

come to a compromise and go for one out of the three days, specifically, on Saturday. The big headliner for Day 2 was the Red Hot Chili Peppers, a band I've never seen in concert, but have heard marvelous things about.

After driving two plus hours into the desert of Indio, California without air conditioning (to prevent overheating the engine and to save on fuel), at 1 PM, I arrived at Coachella a sweatier, crankier version of myself. We waited in line for a very short amount of time and were checked through security very quickly, compared to the previous Coachella that I went to. They didn't even fight to take away my water bottle—a point they made very clear to do in 2004. I'm guessing that the event planners did a better job streamlining the process over the years, and it was a nice change from the hour-long lines from last time.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers weren't scheduled to go on until near the end of the evening, so my boyfriend and I had plenty of time to kill. There were plenty of lesser-known acts to explore, so we moved from tent to tent in the horrendous heat to watch DJ Steve Aoki, DJ Heather, The Frames, and a few others.

Another cool thing was this station where you could charge your cell phone by riding a bicycle-powered charger! It was part of a power-conservation themed exhibit that had solar panels and other stuff to look at. I would have tried the bikes out but exercise in the desert seemed like a really bad idea. To be frank, the heat was killer—perhaps I wasn't well prepared, but I felt fainty every now and then; and it wasn't helped much by the sweaty, "wet butt" smell of the audiences in the stage tents. So goes the Coachella experience.

At dinnertime, I settled on a veggie burrito that turned out to be a big mistake. Festival food is ques-

tionable at best, but my "better judgment" said, "Yes, go ahead and eat that burrito that has been sitting on that table in the warm sun for a very long time. It costs seven dollars, you will be fine." The next few hours were accompanied by a headache and the plaguing urge to \*reject\* my dinner, which ended when I finally stopped by the first aid tent for Tylenol. Hooray, best time ever.

Fast forward to evening, I was finally feeling normal again, and it was right in time for the Chili Peppers. Now, being the tamed concert-goer than I am, I no longer seek the "pit" area of the concert to get kicked, punched, and pushed by my sweaty "pit" neighbors. I'm happy to say that I've outgrown my desire to get within spitting distance of the rock band, and get pummeled in the process.

Instead, I was satisfied to stand a distance away from the stage, but still in good view of the stage and the very useful jumbo-tron screen.

From my view, I enjoyed a very good RHCP concert, which started with "Can't Stop" from their 2002 album, *By The Way*. I think one of the great things about watching a more seasoned band like the Chili Peppers play is that they have a large range of songs to pick from for their playlist and they can't seem to do any wrong with pleasing their audience. They lack the self-conscious rambling between songs that many younger bands will exhibit, and they don't get

bent up over small snafus, like a wrong note here or there.

In other words, the Red Hot Chili Peppers have ascended into

they will probably have requests to play that song until they die. It's a paradigm of how some bands may have a more self-centered attitude about playing to their audience, in contrast to a band like the Chili Peppers, who have the audience as their main concern.

It seems to me that they really relish the act of playing music together, no matter what the song is and if this is the 3000th time they've played it.

The concert was superb. World-famous bassist, Flea, was ultra-friendly and chatted with the audience, even ruining a joke and getting embarrassed about it.

Singer Anthony Kiedis, although now rotund and adorned with a facial hair style made popular by 1970s pornography, was as energetic and glowing in his performance. I have to admit that the most interest I had in the Red Hot Chili Peppers before this concert

was minimal—I've never bought their CD, or anything—but I can appreciate their musical talent.

But in a brief hour and a half of watching them perform, I understand why the Chili Peppers have kept a huge, and still-expanding fan base and have gained a timeless reputation for being one of the world's greatest bands.

Someday in the future when I have grandkids that listen to the Red Hot Chili Peppers, I can brag to them that I once saw the Chili Peppers live in concert. Yes! Put a check next to future Cool-Grandma status!

zen of performance-dom, where the day to day rigors of touring, the labor of rehearsals, and the rigmarole of sound checks don't seem to take the toll that they used to.

They float on the philosophy of music for music's sake. For example, when they played their first hit "Under the Bridge" from 1991, I was thrilled to hear it from the first chord to the last, just as they were thrilled to be playing it.

This would be analogous to the current-day Radiohead playing their song "Creep", or the late-stage Beatles playing "I Want to Hold Your Hand"—bands just don't want to play their first hit because it's boring for them and



Courtesy of the desert sun, Cindy Ko's long-cultivated pale streak was ruined-- welcome to Tanville, aka Indio, CA, site of Coachella.

## CD REVIEW

BY ROBERT KARL

Bright Eyes singer and songwriter Conor Oberst's earlier albums often sound like they were written and recorded while bouncing around on a crosstown Los Angeles bus after an emotional breakdown: choppy, disconnected, heavy, and stylistically conflicting.

But Bright Eyes' new album *Cassadaga* has mellowed out, more like taking a train across the Midwest. Oberst's usually wavering, whiny voice has been sedated and isn't so exasperated.

The new album flows well, a novel improvement for Bright Eyes. Every song is crafted to have you move to the music, or at least make you rock back and forth in your chair. Toned down are the heavy electronic instrumentation and drumbeats common on *Digital Ash In A Digital Urn* (2005) in favor of the style from *I'm Wide Awake It's Morning*.

Unfortunately, the compositions aren't as unique as those off previous albums. The melody of the verses in "Classic Cars" sounds exactly like Bob Dylan's "The Man In Me" with new lyrics, right down to the organ riff and drum beat. The backing vocals on "Make a Plan To Love Me" are reminiscent of The Mamas & The Papas or Simon and

Garfunkel.

Don't fret, however; Oberst's dark, quirky songwriting is still going strong. First time listeners might be taken aback by lines like "The Bible's blind, the Torah's deaf, the Qur'an's mute/If you burned them all together you'd get close to the truth". Few other artists could pull off this dark, sobering line from the song "Four Winds".

Themes like life, death, innocence, and spiritual belief are recurring in his work, as is the symbolism conjured up by scales, drugs, mirrors, and especially

God.

In stark contrast with some of the lyrics, this album is remarkably accessible for Bright Eyes.

There is a greater amount of 70's pop and country-western music influence in this new album than has been present in Oberst's work before. This makes for a more listenable album, when compared to the screaming and electronic noise of previous albums.

Pedal steel guitar, fiddle, and organ form a reliable background across many songs on the album, and Oberst experiments with less dissident backup vocals that recall popular country song choruses. This is no doubt a consequence of his growing up in Omaha, Nebraska.

The musical style isn't the only accessible part of the album (if you're not from the Midwest). It seems that Oberst is in touch with (and making fun of) life at Caltech. On "I Must Belong Somewhere", an upbeat song about the hopelessness of change, Oberst comments about the nature of science and the humanities: "Leave the novelist in his daydream tune/Leave the scientist in his Rubik's cube/Let the true genius in the padded room remain". Throughout his albums, internal conflict is a major theme,

and as a Techer I feel like we have a lot in common. Well, we both complain a lot, I guess.

Like any good story, the beginning of *Cassadaga* is tied to the end. In the last song on the album, "Lime Tree", Oberst juxtaposes the end and the very beginning, a tree of knowledge and the loneliness of death.

*Cassadaga* seems to mostly toy with the personal conflict dealing with finding God, and in telling his stories Oberst makes a point of poking fun at our major religions. Bright Eyes may be an acquired taste in a few ways, but he is a breath of fresh air for those weary of the lyrical abyss of popular music.



# The Tech is online!

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About Us  
Current Issue

**Page pranks Fleming Cannon**  
By NATALYA KOSTANDOVA  
Monday, April 23, 2007  
The student body awoke Thursday morning expecting the day to bring much change to campus, largely in form of a couple hundred prefresh who arrived throughout the day. Not many, however, expected to see the Fleming Cannon turn blue.

**Rainbow flag's enemy unknown**  
By VIBHA LILJANI  
Monday, April 23, 2007  
The rainbow flag that waves outside Chandler was initially mounted on a new metal bracket on Thursday, April 5 as a part of GAYpril, the month to celebrate diversity. Two days later, the flag was found on top of a cream Ford SUV parked on San Pasqual near Ruddock House.

**Plasmonics-Invisibility & a clue to antibiotics?**  
By SARA McBRIDE  
Monday, April 23, 2007  
If writing the April cover story on Plasmonics for Scientific



view previous issue

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## Features

News, Features, Opinion, Humor, Arts and Entertainment

Archives exist from April 2, 2007; more to come

Look forward to:

- \*Searchable articles by keyword, author
- \*This week in photos
- \*Submitting article ideas to the Tech
- \*Comment on editorials

HUMOR | SPORTS | OPINION | ART

**Caltech mourns VT tragedy**  
By YANG YANG  
Monday, April 19, 2007  
Some found out when they checked the morning news, only to be greeted with horror; others learned about it when concerned parents began calling. The rest discovered the gruesome news when fellow students began discussing it.

By lunchtime Monday, every student at Caltech was well aware of the two shootings which left 33 dead that occurred earlier that day at Virginia Tech.

"I first found out about this when my friend began talking about it at lunch," junior Henna Kermani said. "At first I couldn't believe it."

Click here for more articles on Virginia Tech. See Virginia Tech's site for more



**Caltech pranks MIT newspaper**  
By ANNA HISZPANSKI  
Monday, April 19, 2007  
Last Friday, students at MIT received a "special edition" of their institute newspaper, courtesy of Caltech newspaper staff. The unique issue was a prank orchestrated by Caltech students for MIT's campus preview weekend, when admitted students visit the school.

**Super seniors to march**  
By VALERIE SYVERSON  
Monday, April 19, 2007  
Seniors with one more term of study will be walking with their classmates at Commencement ceremonies this year, following a 13-1 vote at the Faculty Board Meeting last Monday.

Hamilton Falk hands a copy of the prank news prefresh at MIT on Friday. The same issue was Caltech on Friday afternoon.

THE TECH / 31

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# Season Review

## Caltech Baseball tops several SCIAC statistical leaderboards

BY: HAMILTONY FALK

The Men's baseball team had a successful season this year, winning two games, including a 25-3 win over their rivals, the "Alums" at home, and a hard fought 5-3 win over Dodgertown, a team of such high quality that it shares part of its name with a professional baseball team. The team had an off year in the categories of hits, runs

scored, steals, and strikeouts (by a pitcher), but was among the conference's leader in hit basemen, errors, strikeouts (by a batter and by a pitcher) and most importantly, having a good time. While their record did not reflect it, some teams were so intimidated by the mighty Beaver men that they batted with their non-dominant hands as a sign of respect. The team really enjoyed going out for pizza or ice

cream after games, and focused on sportsmanship, not running up the score, and treating their opponents with respect. The team hopes to win a few more games next season, but won't mind if they don't. "We're really just in it to try and get on one of those NCAA commercials about going pro in something other than sports," said one imaginary team member, "and the pizza after the game!"



Kevin Noertker realizes he forgot his cup in the locker room.

### Caltech players are leading SCIAC in:

- Wild pitches**
- 1. M. Tan, CIT..... 23
  - 2. K. Noertker, CIT.... 15
  - 3. M. Comstock, CIT.. 11
  - 4. R. Bogner, CIT..... 10

- Hit batters**
- 1. M. Comstock, CIT... 21
  - 2. R. Bogner, CIT..... 18

- Batters Struck out:**
- 1. K. Noertker, CIT.... 62

- Errors (Fielders)**
- 1. M. Glassman, CIT... 25
  - 1. K. Noertker, CIT.... 25

- Stolen bases against**
- 1. S. Surdyk, CIT..... 58
  - 2. K. Noertker, CIT.... 57

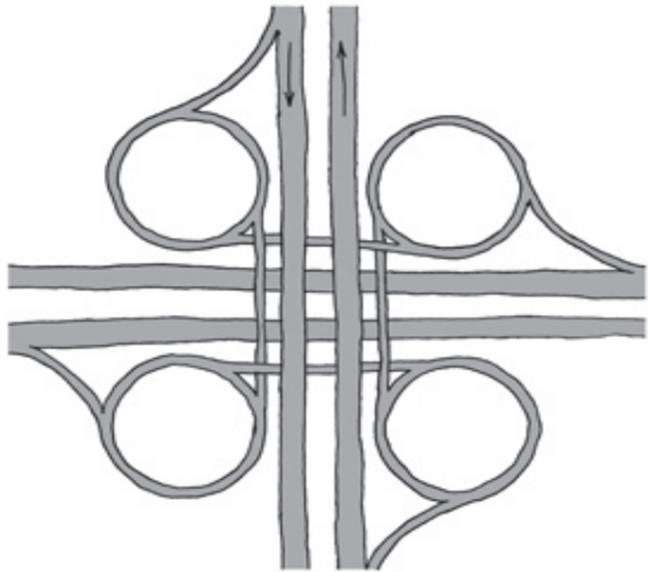
### Caltech is leading the SCIAC as a team with:

- 147 errors
- 22 losses
- 63 wild pitches
- 58 hit batters
- .174 team batting average (lowest in league)

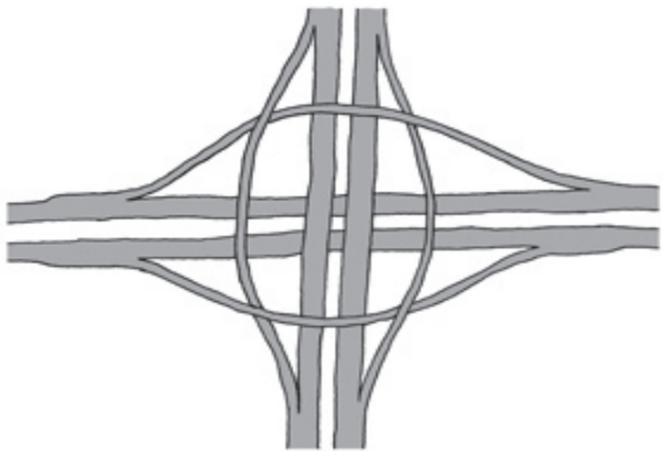
Statistics as of 4/24/07

### HIGHWAY ENGINEER PRANKS:

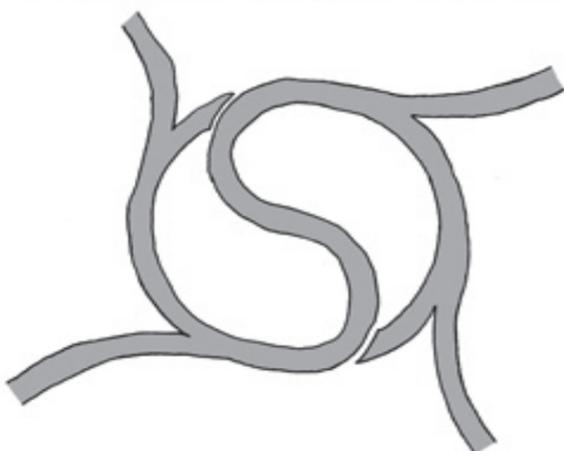
#### THE INESCAPABLE CLOVERLEAF:



#### THE ZERO-CHOICE INTERCHANGE:



#### THE ROTARY SUPERCOLLIDER:

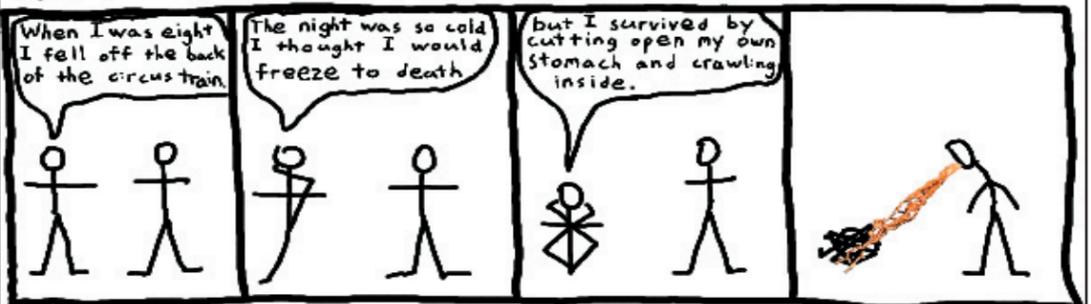


courtesy of xkcd.com

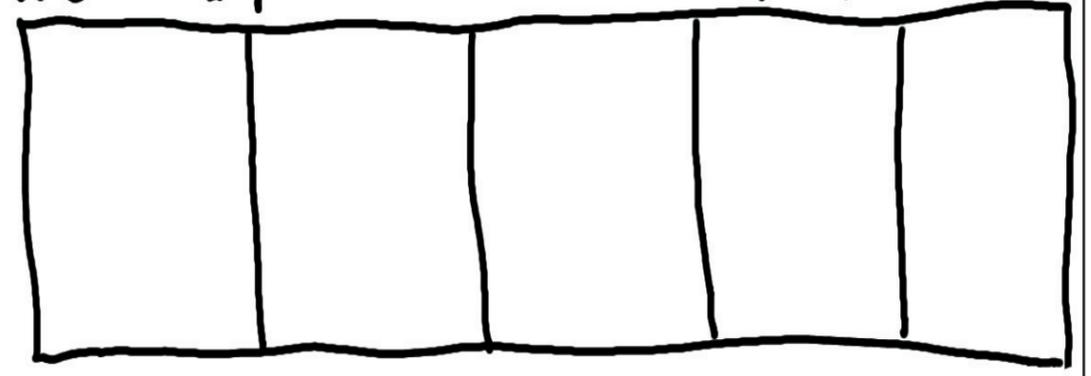
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### WGP "Contortionist" by Mark Eichenlaub



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