

## Merit aid no longer offered to freshmen

With shrinking endowment, more money will go toward financial aid

*Aggressive packages from Harvard, others renders Caltech full rides less attractive*

**By Kim Scott**

STAFF WRITER

Starting with the class entering in 2009, Caltech will cease to offer freshman merit-based scholarships.

An announcement was emailed to all applicants on January 13th, and the financial aid offers mailed to early action admittees reflect the increases in need-based aid possible with the elimination of Axline, Lingle, and President's scholarships, which can cover up to the full cost of four years at Caltech.

Recommended by the Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee (SFAC), the changes were "mainly a financial decision," said Dean John Hall. President Jean-Lou Chameau has pledged that the current recession will have "zero impact" on need-based aid, which is funded solely by Caltech's endowment.

Caltech is firmly committed to making it "possible for any admitted student to attend," wrote Erica O'Neal-Howard, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs. "If you have to choose," explained Hall, between need- and merit-based aid, there is a responsibility

to preserve the program that affects most of the student body "from simply an equity perspective—and from a competitive perspective as well."

Currently, Caltech spends approximately \$2 million on freshman merit scholarships, typically awarded for four years of study. While these funds are legally required to be used for financial aid, they may be gradually reallocated to strengthen the need-based aid program. This year, families with incomes under \$60,000 will pay no parental contribution, but their contribution would have ranged from \$3,000 to \$4,000 last year.

### Axline and Lingle

While the current economic situation served as an impetus to restructure the financial aid program, the efficacy of freshman merit scholarships was already under review. These scholarships are "about changing enrollment behaviors," said Rick Bischoff, Director of Admissions.

Hall added that the idea of the Axline program is to "lure superstars to Caltech"—although it's impossible to pick out the "top students" on the basis of high school performance. However,

many scholarship recipients do well at Caltech.

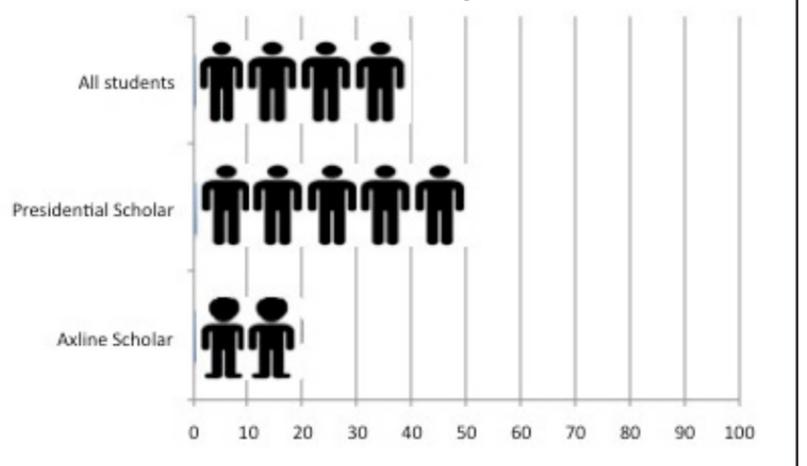
A year ago, Harvard announced that families with incomes under \$180,000 would pay less than 10% of their income in tuition, which had "huge ripple effects through the university world," said Bischoff. "We knew when that happened that our merit scholarships would be less effective."

The yield among students offered freshman merit scholarships has decreased in recent years; notably, only 5 of 25 students accepted Axline scholarships last year. That's a 20% yield, lower than the overall 35% yield for the class of 2012. Members of the SFAC—Bischoff, Hall, and student representative Abhi Gulati—all pointed to the low yield as an indicator of the poor performance of the Axline program for recruitment.

Of course, a low yield does make the program cheaper; Caltech doesn't have to pay for the 25 offers, notes undergraduate Yasha Berchenko-Kogan.

However, the program's suc-

### Matriculation rates last year



cess is better measured by the degree to which merit aid influenced students' decisions to come to Caltech, not by the program's absolute yield. Caltech Admissions did not do any formal survey that could address this question.

In an informal survey conducted by the Tech of 19 students offered merit-based aid, two students responded that Caltech would have been their first choice either way. Ten students attributed their decisions to attend Caltech primarily to the scholarships awarded.

Surveyed students also said

that the merit scholarships had indirect recruiting power: Caltech becomes a more attractive option once top students choose to study here. Many would not have even applied had Caltech not offered merit aid, wrote one student.

In contrast, upperclass merit scholarships reward performance once students arrive at Caltech. Although these are also funded by the endowment, they were not considered for elimination. In

Please see Scholarships, Page 6

## Assault two weeks ago near the Health Center

**By Casey Jao**

STAFF WRITER

According to a recent Security Bulletin, a Caltech student was assaulted on Arden Road, which runs south just east of the tennis courts and on which the Health Center is located.

At approximately 10:30 PM on January 10th, "the victim was struck from behind and ran back to campus."

Few details are known so far. For example, where on Arden Road the incident occurred is not certain. "[We have] very limited information as to what occurred," said Gregg Henderson, chief of Caltech Security.

Meanwhile, Security has enlisted Pasadena Police to help unravel the case.

Physical attacks such as this one are rare at Caltech. The last reported such incident dates back to October last year, when someone was struck by a BB near the campus perimeter.

Most of the few transgressions around campus are property-related, said Mr. Henderson. According to statistics submitted to the Department of Education, in 2007 Caltech and the immediate surrounding area saw 74 burglaries but zero aggravated assaults. Figures for 2008 have not been released yet, but, according to Mr. Henderson, are "down substantially."

As mentioned in the security bulletin, one is encouraged to deter assailants after sundown by travelling in groups or calling x4701 for an escort.

## The Bard takes a stage exit from major

Caltech held onto Shakespeare requirement longer than most schools

**By June Zhang**

STAFF WRITER

As early as the 2009-2010 school year, Caltech English majors will no longer be required to take on Shakespeare, based on a recent decision by Caltech's English faculty.

Currently, Caltech English majors are required to take one term of En 114, an in-depth study of Shakespeare's plays.

The removal of the Shakespeare requirement has been discussed on and off in recent years. Dropping the Shakespeare requirement would allow English majors to study a broader range of works.

Furthermore, Caltech's resident Shakespeare expert Professor Jeni-joy La Belle is now an Emeritus scholar, and the formerly required En114 that she teaches will not be offered as regularly as it has been in the past.

Reflecting on how students will respond to the changes, La Belle said, "I love the way students re-

act to him...I love it how Techers are not afraid of Shakespeare." As long as En114 is offered, course enrollment is not expected to change.

According to the Gilmartin and the Executive Officer of Humanities Cindy Weinstein, the new requirements for the English option will be more structured and encompass a wider range of literature. Instead of the En 114 Shakespeare requirement, English majors will take one course in American Literature, one course in British literature, and one course in literature before 1850.

The English department will continue to offer a class on Shakespeare every year. Under the new requirements, English majors can fulfill the requirement for one course studying pre-1850 works by studying Shakespeare.

"The English major is something we regularly reconstruct," said Kevin Gilmartin, option representative for English. About a decade ago, a thesis paper was added to the English option re-

quirements, and English SURFs have been recently formalized.

Caltech's decision to drop the Shakespeare requirement is not unique, although its reasons for doing so may be unusual. A study in 2007 by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) found that among seventy of the nation's top universities and colleges, only fifteen schools required their English majors to take a course on Shakespeare. Caltech was among one of these fifteen.

"The issue is, nothing is required in humanities these days, because to select certain writers and say you must read this is considered dictatorial, autocratic... not politically correct," said La Belle.

Many schools are shifting from more traditional British literature such as Chaucer, Milton, and Shakespeare to modern, American, and world literature. In addition to traditional courses, studies in English include politics, cultural studies, film, and children's literature.

### A Graduation Circus

Traditionally, seniors at graduation all wear black robes—except for Fleming seniors, who have the choice of wearing red robes instead. This year, each House can choose its own robe color and a matching tassel combination, based on a recent decision made by the Convocation Committee. The decision was prompted by complaints over the "inequality" between Fleming and other Houses.

### In This Issue

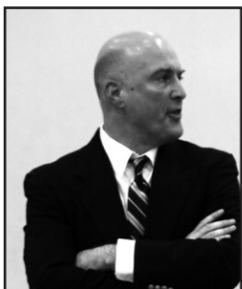
Caltech coach returns as opponent

Page 7

ASCIT Presidential statements page 2  
Obama fever in DC page 4  
God and science converge on book page 5  
Revolutionary Road worth a view page 6

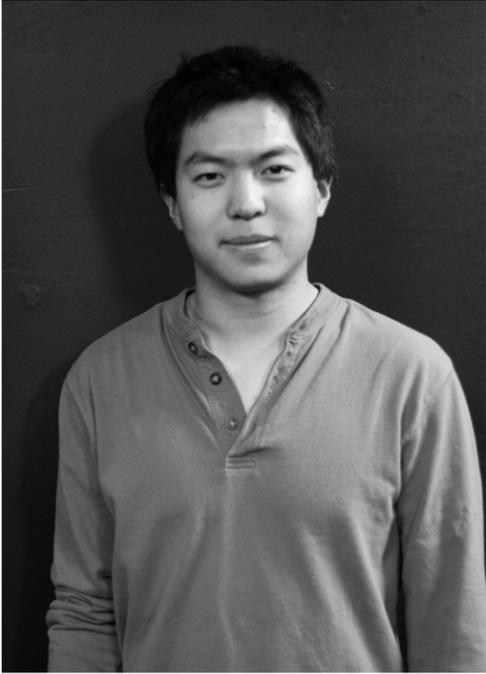
Flea graces Caltech campus

page 5



## Presidential Candidate Statements

### Anthony Chong



Since you are reading this statement you are probably one of the few students who take the initiative to educate themselves about ASCIT. I've heard a common complaint among student leaders that the Caltech student body is too apathetic to care about ASCIT. But you and others like you reading this paper are evidence enough that the shortcomings of our student government does not arise solely from public ignorance. Whether from the Tech, the ASCIT Digest, or simple word of mouth, we all seem to be somewhat aware of the issues that matter to us. It is my belief that the reason many do not care about ASCIT is that they believe ASCIT does little about the issues that genuinely matter to them.

We should have high expectations from our ASCIT President so that our student government can serve us to the fullest of its potential. Together, we can ex-

pect more from ASCIT:

The president can start with executing his required duties: making sure we have a big T and donuts and bagels are delivered properly.

He can continue with simple gestures of kind service: providing packing boxes for seniors who are scrambling to pack up their stuff at the end of the year and organizing shared shuttle rides to avoid Super Shuttle's large premiums for individual travelers.

He can progress by rendering significant service to students: providing a concert and ensuring the financial security of student programs, both within and outside ASCIT by advocating for student positions in Caltech's development decision process.

I am running for ASCIT President because I want to see this vision of ASCIT realized. I am not the type of person who will limit

himself to the role of bully pulpit. I have entered this election recognizing the work and energy I will have to put in to see this job done correctly. But together, we will see that this vision is actualized:

We will get more done by making ASCIT meetings more efficient by presetting agendas for meetings and setting weekly action items.

We will ensure the effectiveness of our advocacy by changing the tiresome and ineffective approach of complaining to headstrong administrators, and instead brokering mutually beneficial compromises.

We will make sure we have the ear of the student body by moving meetings back into a public forum and proactively seeking out student opinion.

Join me today in transforming ASCIT into something we can be proud of.

### The California Tech

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125  
advertising e-mail: [business@caltech.edu](mailto:business@caltech.edu)  
editorial e-mail: [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu)

*Editor-in-Chief*  
Marissa Cevallos

*Business Managers*  
Robin Abraham

*Photography Editor*  
Jonathan Tsai

*Layout Editors*  
Hanna Liu  
Yang Yang

*Webmaster*  
Michael Comstock

*Staff*  
Dannah Almasco  
ZeNan Chang  
Molly Davis  
Andrea Dubin  
Mark Eichenlaub  
Andrew Freddo  
Anna Hiszpanski  
Michelle Jiang  
Robert Karl  
Chris Kennelly  
Natalya Kostandova  
Vibha Laljani  
Harold Martin  
Sarah Marzen  
Gloria Tran  
Wesley Yu

*Circulation*  
Aryan Safaie

*Adviser*  
Dr. Gary Libman

*The Tech* is published weekly except during vacation and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers.

Letters and submissions are welcome; e-mail submissions to [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu) as plain-text attachments, including the author's name, by Friday of the week before publication. *The Tech* does accept anonymous contributions. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for any reason. All written work remains property of its author.

The advertising deadline is 5 PM Friday; all advertising should be submitted electronically or as camera-ready art, but *The Tech* can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising inquiries should be directed to the business manager at [business@caltech.edu](mailto:business@caltech.edu). For subscription information, please send mail to "Subscriptions."

### Noah Tanabe

Hey everybody, the dude in the yellow hat is running for ASCIT President. I also respond to that guy, as in "Good lord, Noah, why do you always have to be that guy???" I don't really want this job, but I think I would be good at it, and that's enough for me to throw my hat in the ring.

During my tenure as the chair of the ASCIT Executive Committee, we worked to define exactly what the point of ASCIT is. We came up with specific ideas and goals, programs that ASCIT could implement or ways ASCIT could change to better serve the undergraduate communities.

However, in the end, everything boiled down to one precept: ASCIT exists to do everything it can to make student life just a little bit better. ASCIT needs to realize what it could be doing to improve student life, and more importantly what it is spending resources on that doesn't do anything to make life better for students.

First of all, we need to work on specific things ASCIT can do to provide at least some short-term happiness to everyone. Yes, this is treating the symptom and not the disease, but there's nothing wrong with spending a couple

bucks on some throat lozenges while the pharmacy is filling your cough medicine prescription.

There are so many things that ASCIT can do to give some transient happiness to the undergraduate community: We can bring back ASCIT happy hour; we can bring in speakers and presenters that people want to listen to; we can hold barbecues and parties and ice cream socials on the weekends for no other reason than to give people free food when Chandler is closed.

ASCIT is the only body on campus with a Social Director, a large budget, and everything else needed to hold these kinds of events, and it should take advantage of these resources to do things for the student body that no one else can.

In addition to its campus-wide social duties, ASCIT is in the unique position of the student representatives to the Trustees, Faculty, Alumni Association, and Admin. It is in this capacity that ASCIT can truly attain some lasting good on the Caltech campus. ASCIT needs to improve contact with the Trustees in order to ensure our needs are met.

ASCIT needs to work with Peter Daily and help him give us food



we actually want to eat. ASCIT needs to keep up all our good ties with Chameau and Mannion, two members of the Administration that genuinely care about student happiness. ASCIT needs to get Tim Chang off our backs so that the Houses can be Houses and not cookie-cutter model dorms like you'd see at any other college in the country.

This is truly ASCIT's greatest area of responsibility, and it is absolutely inexcusable for any ASCIT government not to use its power to the fullest and achieve

its potential.

If elected ASCIT President, I will work to achieve all these goals. As much as I hate to admit it, I actually care about this campus and want to make this school the kind of place that we can talk about to our friends back home with pride.

Win or lose in this election, my door is always open, and I will always be willing to work as hard as I can and put in any effort necessary to make Caltech just a little bit better.

### Daniel Obenshaim



I don't speak to you, the fat and happy minority. I speak to you, the angry, disgruntled majority!

What I want is a functioning ASCIT. We haven't had a yearbook in three years. The Tech is crap, except for xkcd. Clubs can't get funding. I mean, come on!

If elected, I promise to:

Get more, better donuts.

Actually put out a yearbook.

Not screw up.

So when you go to vote, ask yourself: "What has ASCIT done for me lately?"

Da"ASCIT still owes me \$200"no

## Vice-Presidential Candidate Statements



### Debbie Tseng

As a current representative of the Board of Control, I have the privilege to work with the people on the council as peers of our community, as well as being open to honor code discussions within the student body and being advised by the Deans. It is not a light burden to take upon the duty to implement justice, but also to do so with compassion – with understanding and with the ability to help others in our community.

I believe that this experience has given me a firm foundation to continue this work for the entire Caltech community as ASCIT's Vice President/Honor Chair. As

Vice President, not only is there the responsibility of helping and supporting the President to manage and organize student affairs; there is also the task to actively promote and discuss various aspects of the Honor Code to administration, faculty, and the student body.

There are many proposals about changing the ASCIT by-laws – if these by-laws are passed, the responsibilities of VP/Honor Chair will be split between the IHC and ARC Chairs, who already have many responsibilities of their own. The Honor Chair has only been recently created and has not

had enough time to evolve into a position that has the stability of the longer-established ASCIT officers. Writing new by-laws restructures ASCIT in words only, and would only cause a longer period of adjustment for newly elected officers.

I urge you to trust in the traditional, fundamental ASCIT system - entrusting yourself to support an elected student body of your peers who are here to connect with the community and to ensure that student life runs smoothly. I care deeply for the people of our student body as well as our academic and social well being, and believe that it is vital to have people who are actively involved in every aspect of the honor code so that we may continue to live under its privileges.

### Michael Maseda

As a member of the ASCIT President's staff last year, I was known in my house at "that ASCIT guy." People would come to me, complaining about how ASCIT never did anything, and that it was completely useless. Many times, I asked them what ASCIT should be doing for them – how ASCIT could make their lives a little better. I almost never got any serious suggestions.

ASCIT cannot make the day more than 24 hours long, cannot do your ACM 95 problem sets for you, and cannot do a whole lot about your creepy Ch 1 TA who gives you funny looks...

ASCIT can make things better here.

There is little doubt that ASCIT has had its problems in recent years, and that the current system is possibly too broken to fix (see the new proposals for restructuring). However, things have started to change, and I have been trying my hardest to facilitate it.

On the staff, I am part of the team dedicated to revising Donut to be a more useful site for finding out what's going on.

I was major contributor to the MHF proposal for the Student Experience Trip, to see what other schools are doing right (or wrong) and how we can fix things here.

I worked closely with the current President to form the job of ASCIT Communications Manager, so as information from ASCIT can get out to the community more efficiently, and so that people would be able to find out more about what ASCIT actually is doing.

Being Vice President also means being the Honor Chair. We all know how important the Honor Code is to Caltech, and I feel like I will be able to uphold the principles and ideals demanded from such a job.

Recently, work to create a system where faculty members would be appointed "Honor Code Representatives" has gone largely unfinished. I feel like such a system to get the faculty more involved with the Honor Code and hence more clearly define class/

department policies is a great idea, and I will push hard to make that a reality.

I also feel that there should be more transparency and accountability in the BoC and CRC, so that students can ensure that there is no foul play or unfair bias in the system.

In addition, I will try to make the faculty more involved in the BoC (including systems like the Honor Code Reps) and create more student participation in the affairs of the CRC.

I wish to help clarify the governing rules of the Honor Code and ensure that no student is unfairly persecuted by the community.

Yes, I am the guy who sends out the ASCIT Digests. Yes, I am the guy who has tried to get more people talking about the Digests by putting funny youtube links in some of the more recent editions. And yes, I am the guy who really wants to work hard to make things better for you.



## Reminder and Announcements

The season for ASCIT elections is underway!  
Elections will proceed as follows:

### Elections Schedule

1/26: Elections for President/VP and Vote on Bylaw Changes (from 10:00 AM to 11:59 PM)

This elections period will include an opportunity to vote on the bylaw amendment proposed by Dvin Adalian. For more details on the content of these changes, please go to: <http://ugcs.caltech.edu/~jrc/elections/>

1/26: President/VP debate (noon)

The debate begins promptly at noon in Winnett Lounge. The audience will have opportunities to ask the candidates questions.

Choco Tacos will be provided.

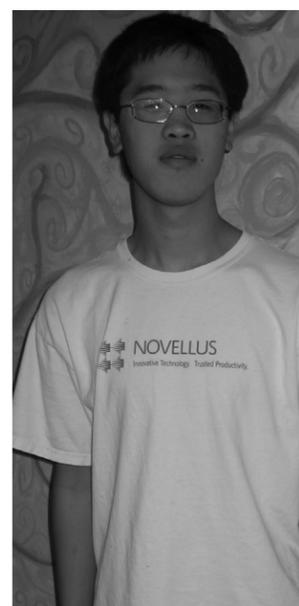
- 1/27: Protest period
- 1/28: Election results posted (midnight – 10:00 AM)
- 1/28: Other positions open for sign-up (8:00 AM)
- 2/3: Other positions close for sign-up (5:00 PM)
- 2/6: Candidate statements due
- 2/9: Elections for other offices (10:00 AM – 11:59 PM)
- 2/9: IHC Chair debate (noon)
- 2/10: Protest period
- 2/11: Election results posted (midnight – 10:00 AM)
- Positions Opening for Nomination on 1/28

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Interhouse Committee Chairman
- Director for Academic Affairs
- Director for Social Activities
- Directors at Large

For details on position descriptions and eligibility, please go to:

[http://donut.caltech.edu/ascit/ASCIT\\_Bylaws#ARTICLE\\_IV--OFFICERS](http://donut.caltech.edu/ascit/ASCIT_Bylaws#ARTICLE_IV--OFFICERS)

- Any questions or comments should be submitted to:
- Jason Cerundolo, Elections Committee Chair: [jrc@caltech.edu](mailto:jrc@caltech.edu)
- Caleb Ng, ASCIT President: [pres@donut.caltech.edu](mailto:pres@donut.caltech.edu)
- Noah Tanabe, Executive Committee Chair: [excomm@donut.caltech.edu](mailto:excomm@donut.caltech.edu)
- Elections Committee (Jason Cerundolo, Ashley Potts, John Hasier, Hima El-Awady): [elcom@ugcs.caltech.edu](mailto:elcom@ugcs.caltech.edu)



### Eric Chin

It's clear that ASCIT is not fully carrying out its responsibilities. To allow it to function, major changes are needed to establish accountability.

In particular, the position of vice president is superfluous: I fully support its removal under either of the proposed bylaw revisions. However, should both fail, I, as vice president, will

- i) make ASCIT vice president actually responsible for doing useful things; and
- ii) do useful things.

# Freshman joined the millions in DC on Tuesday

By Christina Kondos  
CONTRIBUTOR

One million: a number easily conceptualized theoretically and oftentimes used in problem sets. Nothing, however, could prepare me for the actual reality of that number of people in one place. On January 20, 2009, Barack Obama became President of the United States while over a million people crammed into the National Mall in Washington D.C. on a bright, cold morning.

When I first arrived in the nation's capital on Saturday night, I remember remarking to myself about the number of people at the Reagan Airport, how it seemed like much more than usual. It was only a prelude of the masses to come.

Everywhere I walked, t-shirts, buttons, and posters were being hawked bearing pro-Obama messages. By Monday night, tourist trade of inaugural merchandise had built to a fever pitch. Many were fun, most catchy, but one t-shirt stopped me in my tracks. The shirt had a picture of Superman with Obama's face superimposed upon it. The so-called "Super-Obama" shirt came to represent my worries for the new President.

My Tuesday began at 3:30 A.M. I got dressed, putting on al-

most all of the clothes I brought, and walked from my hotel to the north side of the National Mall. By 4:15, I had been waiting outside the Mall with a couple thousand others for half an hour and had already been pushed back a block by the National Guard. I, wisely in retrospect, decided to go back to the hotel and come back later.

At 9:30, much warmer, I made my way back to the inaugural grounds. Every street within a 10- to 20-block radius of the Mall had become a walking mass of people. There were no longer distinctions between street and sidewalk; the entire road was simply a moving crowd. I walked through the 17th Street entrance and ended up 50 meters in front of the Washington Monument.

Being by myself, I soon became fast friends with the group of people around me watching the ceremonies on the jumbotron. I was the cold Caltech student surrounded by an elderly African American woman who kept saying she never believed she would see this in her lifetime, two vegan hippies from Seattle, and a young couple from Kansas who had saved for months to be able to come to Washington.

None of our differences mattered as we stood and watched Barack Obama become the 44th



Over one million Americans converge on the nation's Capitol, including Caltech freshman Christina Kondos.

President of the United States. After Obama finished saying he would "protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," the joy was physical. I received no less than eight hugs from almost total strangers. During the address that followed, even my cynical, Republican eyes were no longer dry.

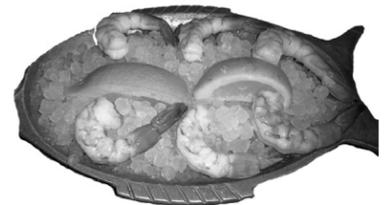
The feeling in Washington was one of hope and change, just as

our new leader had campaigned for. Yet, as I spent more time there, I realized there was an almost desperate edge to the feelings of a new beginning. President Obama will no doubt do his best; he has made intelligent, well-reasoned policy and cabinet choices since being elected. Still, he is only one man, and some of the work that needs to be done will fall ultimately to us. The new

President expressed this belief in his inaugural address.

During the parade and ball that came after, I could not keep a smile off my face. We have a new leader; he came with much fanfare and excitement, but he came peacefully. I only wish to bring the smiles and patience of the one million-person crowd with me as I come back to Caltech.

## Cameron's Seafood: a fabulous catch



Right: a shrimp cocktail served on ice with lemon. Above: Dannah and Andrew sample seafood platters.

By Dannah Almasco  
Andrew Freddo  
FOOD REVIEWERS

**Introduction:** The dreary weather of the past week has reminded us of a New England coastal village. To commemorate this, we decided to try a seafood restaurant.

**Goal:** Usually when we want to go out for dinner, we head towards Old Pasadena. This time, we wanted to try heading the other direction, past PCC, to try the restaurants over there.

**Stockroom Options:** Cameron's has every type of fresh seafood imaginable, ranging from fish to crustaceans to bivalves. For you landlubbers, they also have steak.

**Materials and Cost:** To get an overall picture of Cameron's seafood offerings, we started with a house appetizer platter (\$13) and a jumbo shrimp cocktail (\$11). For our main course, we tried the crab cioppino (\$23) and the grilled Chilean sea bass (\$27).

**Observations:**

The jumbo shrimp cocktail came with six huge shrimp over ice on a fish-shaped platter. Each shrimp was very fresh and meaty. Unlike most cocktail sauces, this one was sweeter, perfect with a spritz of lemon. It is the perfect amount to share between two people.

The hot appetizer platter comes with a large variety of fried seafood, including calamari, scal-

lops, crab strips, shrimp, oysters, and even zucchini. The breading was not overly thick, but was the perfect amount of crunch. Stand-outs include the scallops, which were sweet and succulent, and the zucchini, which contrasted the rest of the platter. Overall, though everything was fried, it did not leave us overly stuffed.

The grilled sea bass tasted like it came right from the ocean – the fish was very flaky and juicy. It was a bit oily, but overall was a simple, delicious preparation. No extraneous flavors here – Cameron's makes sure the freshness speaks for itself without complicated sauces or seasonings. It was served with rice and vegetables.

The crab cioppino, the self-touted signature dish, was deemed

"an affair" by our waitress. It arrived at the table in what initially appeared to be a large serving bowl, probably enough to feed a family of four! Not only was it a humongous portion, it was piping hot, and took a while to cool down enough to taste all the flavors. There were clams, mussels, fish, and crab legs in a light, chunky tomato sauce, all served over linguine. Be prepared to work – this dish is messy to eat, and you'll have to crack open a lot of crab legs. Still, it's very much worth the effort; there will be a lot of delicious leftovers to take home!

**Atmosphere:** The décor in Cameron's comes straight out of a fisherman's wharf! The walls are covered with pictures and plaques of fish, and there is wood paneling all around. It is anything but

SoCal, more reminiscent of New England or San Francisco.

**Conclusion:** For the seafood aficionado, Cameron's is perfect. Even though it is a bit pricey, you're paying for the freshest seafood in amazing preparations. Cameron's is open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, and there is also a brunch on Sundays (with a brunch buffet available in addition to the dinner menu). So, try turning east, to 1978 E Colorado Blvd, for Cameron's!

A

## ROCK STAR AT CALTECH



Left: Michael "Flea" Balzary belts out a note in Thursday's dress rehearsal at Beckman Auditorium.

Above: Flea asked to sit in as the bass player on a few songs.

Photos by Jonathan Tsai

# Rock bassist Flea joins with Caltech jazz

The world-renowned musician was just as nervous as everyone else

By Marissa Cevallos

STAFF WRITER

For a musician who has played to millions of screaming fans, redefined the electric bass, and become one of the most recognizable names in rock and roll, you'd think Flea would have overcome stage fright back in the 1980s.

But at the dress rehearsal the night before he gave a trumpet performance in Beckman Auditorium with the Caltech Jazz bands, the tattooed Red Hot Chili Pepper bass guitarist was visibly nervous. This was his first time he'd ever played with a jazz band.

As he walked out to the parking lot after the rehearsal, Michael "Flea" Balzary confided that he hadn't played a few of the songs as well as he'd hoped. He'd gotten lost following the music a few times, prompting the jazz band director and Flea's former trumpet teacher William Bing to pull him aside and tell him to forget

about the notes on the page and just listen to the band.

The advice must have worked: the trumpet performance Flea delivered on Friday was melodic, energetic, and infused with a personal style distinctly separate from his flashy Chili Pepper riffs. Whatever shortcomings Flea imagined he had were forgiven—or not noticed—by the star-struck crowd.

"He was terrific," said Bing. "He just came in and nailed it."

Flea veered into RHCP funkiness at times in the two-hour show, but always stayed true to the jazz feel. The marriage between the two styles couldn't have been more perfect when the rhythm section played Freddie the Freeloader, a Miles Davis blues in which Flea laid down a subdued bass groove but cut loose during his solo.

It was a tall order for guitarist Laurence Yeung, a chemistry graduate student, to follow Flea's solo.

"It was at once terrifying and exhilarating," said Yeung.

Not as terrifying as it was for Flea to "play outside his comfort zone," as Flea said when he thanked the 1150-person crowd that packed Beckman.

Bassist Daniel Hurtado said that Flea was feeling the pressure backstage before the performance:

"Right at the start of the concert, and before he jumped on stage, he was running everywhere in the back stage, warming up on the bass.

"Then, he grabbed the trumpet and told me: 'Hey, I am going to play trumpet in the bathroom for a bit, so let me know if it is too loud, OK?'" He looked more nervous than all of us!"

It wasn't obvious that Flea had never shared the stage with a jazz band before, but his position as a jazz newcomer added a fresh twist to some standards that tend to see little variety. Flea's breathy take on the ballad Nearness of

You was sweet but surprisingly vibrato free, channeling Miles Davis and Chet Baker more than Harry James.

The modern arrangement of Take the A Train, a Duke Ellington classic, put a funk beat behind the typically up-tempo standard. Flea was sparse with his embellishments on the tune—he clearly avoided sounding gimmicky—but delighted the audience with a surprise high note at the end.

Soloing in front of Flea—and not losing the beat when he turned to listen and nod his head along—looked like it would be terrifying for any of the musicians on stage. But according to Yeung, "[Flea] took the time to support and praise personally everyone who took a solo."

The Caltech musicians were overwhelmingly impressed by Flea's laid-back modesty.

"I didn't expect a celebrity like Flea to be so humble and friendly," said Hurtado.

Or clothed. It was hard to

picture the trumpet player in a creased hat and suit as the head-banging, shirtless, tattooed Flea from RHCP.

On Thursday night, he looked a little more like a rock star—he sported a leather jacket, ripped jeans, orange and white sneakers with hot pink shoelaces, topped off with a wool cap with ear flaps he got for Christmas.

He also drove to Caltech in his new Tesla, an all-electric sports car.

As a gift for playing the concert—Flea didn't charge his usual fare—Bing gave Flea a putting green golf set for the inside of his Malibu home, complete with a multi-colored plastic set of clubs for Flea's 3 year-old.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers are currently on hiatus after releasing the double album Stadium Arcadium, which picked up six Grammy Awards. Flea is taking music theory classes at the University of Southern California during the break.

## Book Review

### Language of God speaks to the scientific

By Joel Nikolaus

STAFF WRITER

Although its author holds opinions that many on campus object to, *Language of God* is neither particularly argumentative nor confrontational. It does not advocate any particularly extreme positions and is decidedly middle ground.

And that is exactly the point.

If you do not happen to catch on from the title, Francis Col-

lins believes in God. Moreover he also makes it pretty clear that he is a Christian. What comes as a surprise is that throughout the course of the book, he does not push a stronger agenda. Sure, he still tries to sell you on his point of view, but unlike some of his more extreme counterparts (on both sides), he does not try to shove his opinion down your throat.

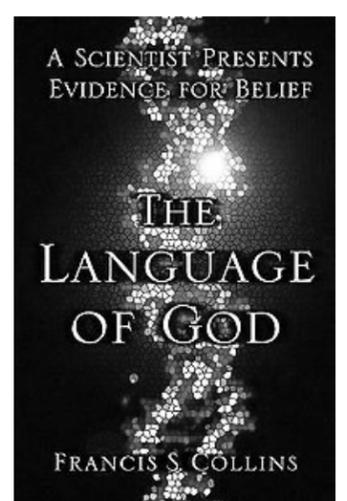
Part of this seems to stem from the fact that the book is not just about arguing his point of view.

It is just as much a telling of his own story. He presents how he personally arrived at his beliefs and drawing at times as much from Christian apologist C.S. Lewis as he does from his own background in science, leaving the reader to judge for himself.

But for those not interested in his personal story, the science is still there. He eventually departs from his philosophy and moves more towards the science that I was expecting from a biologist

of his stature. Citing examples in his own field he specifically addresses the current camps of atheism, intelligent design, and creationism and some of the ethical issues facing genetics in the near future.

Overall, the book is easy to read and surprisingly calm, given its hot-blooded subject matter.



## Movie Review

# “Road” confronts inner battles

Winslet and DiCaprio channel a disillusioned couple

By Hillary Walker

STAFF WRITER

Revolutionary Road is brutal, troubling, and intense.

In this adaptation of the 1961 novel by Richard Yates, Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet reunite to play Frank and April Wheeler, a young couple seemingly trapped in the mid-century suburban hinterland.

Frank Wheeler wants to “feel things, really feel them.” He believes he is destined to be someone, but each morning he follows the stream of gray suits to the city to contemptuously work in a cubicle for a business machine company. April, once an aspiring actress, now spends her days miserably making breakfast and dragging trash to the curb.

Frank and April consider themselves special, bohemian, somehow different from the other families in their Connecticut neighborhood. This belief, a narcissistic self-deception which they never grasp, provides the raw emotional fuel for the film. The Wheelers are not, in fact, trapped by the circumstances of sweet, bland suburbia but instead by an indescribable, reverberant force within their marriage.

They yearn to be happy, to lead interesting lives, to fill their spiritual emptiness, but their hopes are vague and never well articulated. April concocts a plan to move to Paris, a place where she believes they can escape their mounting



sense of disillusion and bleakness, but an unexpected pregnancy and an offer of promotion keep the Wheelers right where they are. As disappointment and hopelessness overwhelm the couple, the already uneasy marriage and the very identities of Frank and April begin to tear asunder.

Kate Winslet gives an astonishing performance. April is a woman of extremes: in one moment she is coldly controlled, and a second later she is unhinged. A thousand emotions seem to play across Winslet’s face; she is convincing and powerful. Leonardo DiCaprio’s acting is also admirable, and the actors are at their best when their characters are at their worst. The emotional violence

and the startling physical grapples are disturbingly real, and the movie as a whole, although quite unemotional in its treatment of the Wheelers’ decay, is profoundly moving.

The score by Thomas Newman is subdued and haunting, and the cinematography is spectacular.

Revolutionary Road illuminates something that is often hard to identify and explore: the “empty hopelessness,” the circular struggles and internal forces that keep us prisoner, the wasting away of dreams, the loss of our best selves. Still, the despair is unrelenting and rather unsettling at times.

This is a difficult film to watch, but that’s why it’s worthy.

## Scholarships cut

SCHOLARSHIPS, FROM PAGE 1

keeping with the trend towards equity, the scholarships may be divided among more students next year.

### Presidential scholarships

The Presidential scholarships were discussed separately in SFAC meetings. The yield for President’s scholars has recently been around 50%, reports Bischoff.

Hall expressed reservations about eliminating these scholarships, which are intended to promote a broad range of forms of diversity: “until we get up to a certain level, we need to do something extra” to recruit these students.

Candace Rysipi, Director of Student-Faculty Programs and former director of the Women’s Center, agreed that whereas Caltech has reached a “critical mass” with respect to recruiting women, for underrepresented minorities “that momentum doesn’t exist.” Recruiting minority stu-

dents would in turn make Caltech a more welcoming environment.

Next year a new position will be created in the Admissions office to deal with diversity issues.

### Prefrosh SURFs

Elimination of Axline scholarships will also remove the Axline SURF program, which invited scholarship recipients to participate in a SURF the summer before their freshman year. As with the Axline program itself, the yield was low, with few students taking advantage of the opportunity.

Opening up the option of pre-frosh SURF to the entire admitted class would be logistically daunting, explained Rypisi. By the time offers of admission are made, the SURF application process is over. However, every year some pre-frosh apply on their own by the standard process and receive SURFs. Applications from pre-frosh will still be welcome in the absence of an established program.

## ASCIT Minutes: January 14, 2009

Officers Present: Caleb Ng, Zachary Higbee, Joel Nikolaus, Angela Zah, Chris Watson, Tzong-lian “Will” Tsay, Ekta Bhojwani, Matt Czubakowski, Michelle Jiang

Guests: Anthony Chong, Michael Kaye

Call to order: 10:35 pm

President’s Report:

By-Laws: ExComm submitted a second set of new by-laws with ~ 140 signatures. This is short of the 20% needed to automatically place it upon the ballot, and ExComm requested that the Bod vote to include the bylaws anyway, taking the signatures as a sign of student support.

Caleb said that including the second measure was about giving students more options rather than an explicit endorsement. The BoD, however, remained concerned that running two separate by-laws would increase confusion among students and that such confusion could risk the failure for both sets of bylaws. To minimize confusion and remove any unfair advantage the BoD was in general agreement that should both proposals be put up for a vote they should appear on the same ballot, rescheduling the vote if necessary.

After careful consideration the Bod decided to not vote on the Excomm bylaws for two primary reasons:

Some members felt that it was unfair to give the second proposal special treatment. Nothing prevented the proponents of this set of by-laws from obtaining the requisite number of signatures. They should be required to go through the normal petition process.

The new bylaws contain inconsistencies that make the document unfit to be put on a ballot. This includes references to the Honor Chair, a position that would no longer exist. By-laws should be consistent, straightforward, and free from errors. In the current form, the Bod cannot in good conscience place it on the ballot.

Alumni Funding: The Alumni Association plans to cut some funding for student events (~\$4000) as part of larger institute funding cuts. As a result, ASCIT will need to carefully consider its budget for this next year to make the most efficient use of its funds and cover for such cuts. Although it should be carefully considered, a dues increase might be part of a solution.

Funding:

Chess Club: The club requests \$118 to cover the entry fee for the USA Amateur Team West Tournament. Covers the entry costs for all members. The club did not request club funding this year.

Motion to approve \$120 for the Chess Club. VOTE: Passed (6-0-1)

Zombie Issues: Ruddock requests multihouse funding for zombie event with Dabney.

Motion to approve \$100 multihouse funding for Ruddock. VOTE: Passed (7-0-1)

Capture the Flag: Lloyd requests multihouse funding for Lloyd-Blacker Capture the Flag.

Motion to approve \$100 multihouse funding for Lloyd. VOTE: Passed (7-0-1)

Meeting adjourned: 11:33 pm

Submitted by Joel Nikolaus  
ASCIT Secretary

## Compromise on new bylaws

A vote on Monday for ASCIT restructuring will include changes from Excomm Chair

By Dvin Adalian  
Noah Tanabe

IHC SECRETARY  
ASCIT EXCOMM CHAIR

Running concurrently to the President elections today is a vote on an amendment to the ASCIT bylaws. An agreement has been reached between the two bylaw plans and only one of them will be run today.

Today’s vote for the bylaws petitioned and announced last week will happen as announced-- an addendum will be run the following week.

The proposal revamps the structure and operations of ASCIT to make it more efficient, less bureaucratic, and brings it in line with the current needs and wants of students.

The Board of Directors needs to be slimmed down and its roles clarified to cover the major responsibilities (administration decisions, faculty decisions, publications, universal property) students care about and made more accountable to the students for those responsibilities.

The former judicial branch needs to be modified so that the President no longer chooses its members and now has inter-house representation. Each House should have a representative to provide oversight on the actions and inaction of the BoD.

The little-used Director-at-Large positions would be replaced with an office dedicated to overseeing ASCIT property (the screening room, DVD library, ASCIT speakers, etc.) and ensuring the progress and completion of the ASCIT publications (Big T, little t, etc.).

There’s currently a lot of bureaucracy surrounding BoD operations; including funding approvals, staff, voting, resolutions and policies which need to be reduced.

Generally everything has been updated to reflect currently used procedures which make more sense, adjustments have been made for current technology, and redundant sections have been removed.

Various previous announcements carry the explicit bylaw changes and summaries and dia-

grams of the proposed changes.

Should today’s amendment pass, the upcoming BoD elections will have to be adjusted and will be delayed. This also means nominations will remain open until all Houses have completed their elections, giving all Houses equal treatment.

As part of the agreement an addendum to the new bylaws will go to vote next week which reflects the corrections by the Excomm.

It would permanently set ASCIT elections after all of the House elections. It would also require the BoD to call at least one Corporation meeting each year and allows the BoD some input on who serves on the oversight committee.

A lot of thought and feedback has gone into this plan to make ASCIT serve the students better than it has in the past. ASCIT should be small but efficient, House-independent but responsive to every House’s concerns, and effective but accountable. Today we have a chance to make ASCIT the student government we need it to be.

Sports Briefs

# Former basketball coach wins in Caltech return



Beaver basketball fans were treated to a surreal sight on Thursday night as former men's basketball head coach Roy Dow returned to the sidelines, coaching the Cal Lutheran women's team to a 57-28 victory over Caltech.

The physical first half saw Caltech take its only lead of the game at 14:16, followed by a 21-2 run by Cal Lutheran to blow the game open over the next ten minutes. The Beaver defense held the Regals to just 33.3% shooting for the first half, but Caltech struggled to score, shooting 3-of-21 from the field and 4-of-10 from the line. The Regals rotated in 11 players to keep up an active defense which hounded ball handlers.

Freshman Teri Juarez led the home team with nine points while sophomore Lisha Li and freshman Krissy Dahl shared a team high nine rebounds.

Cal Lutheran's Nita Sims led

all players with 17 points.

Dow, who announced his coaching move this summer after six years at Caltech, was greeted with handshakes and a few hugs from his former players prior to the game.

Junior Lisa Yee played for the first time since a foot injury in December, the team's leading perimeter scorer logged 15 minutes.

## Women's basketball center named SCIAC player of the week

Freshman Center Krissy Dahl was named SCIAC female athlete of the week on January 8 in part for her 28 points, 16 rebounds, 5 block performance in the Beavers' 57-40 win over Pacific Union on Jan. 4.

"Dahl's poise and court presence are blending well with

our young and energetic team" commented Coach Sandra Marbut.

## Men's Swimming scores victory over Kingsmen

The mens' swimming and diving team won their second to last SCIAC meet 111-101 for their first victory of the season.

Freshman Justin Johson led the Beavers with two first place finishes in the Men's 1-meter and 3-meter diving. Senior Tom Oliver led the Men's 200-yard freestyle and sophomore Paul Fleiner put the finishing touches on the day by winning the Men's 500-yard freestyle.

## Upcoming Games

Jan. 28

Men's Basketball at Redlands  
7:30 P.M.

Jan. 29

Women's Basketball at Redland  
7:30 P.M.

Jan. 30

Swimming and Diving at Home  
4:00 P.M.

Jan. 31

Baseball vs. Simpson  
12:00 P.M.  
3:00 P.M.

Women's Basketball vs. CMS  
5:00 P.M.

Men's Basketball vs. CMS  
7:30 P.M.



## The Weekly Scoreboard

Jan. 14

Men's Basketball at La Verne L 74-24

Jan. 15

Women's Basketball at La Verne L 72-34

Jan. 16

Swimming and Diving at Occidental  
Men: L 148-76  
Women: L 176-58

Jan. 17

Swimming and Diving vs. Pomona-Pitzer  
Men: L 165-55  
Women: L 180-55

Women's Basketball vs. Whittier L 68-47  
Men's Basketball vs. Whittier L 86-42

Jan 21

Men's Basketball vs. Cal Lutheran L 77-52

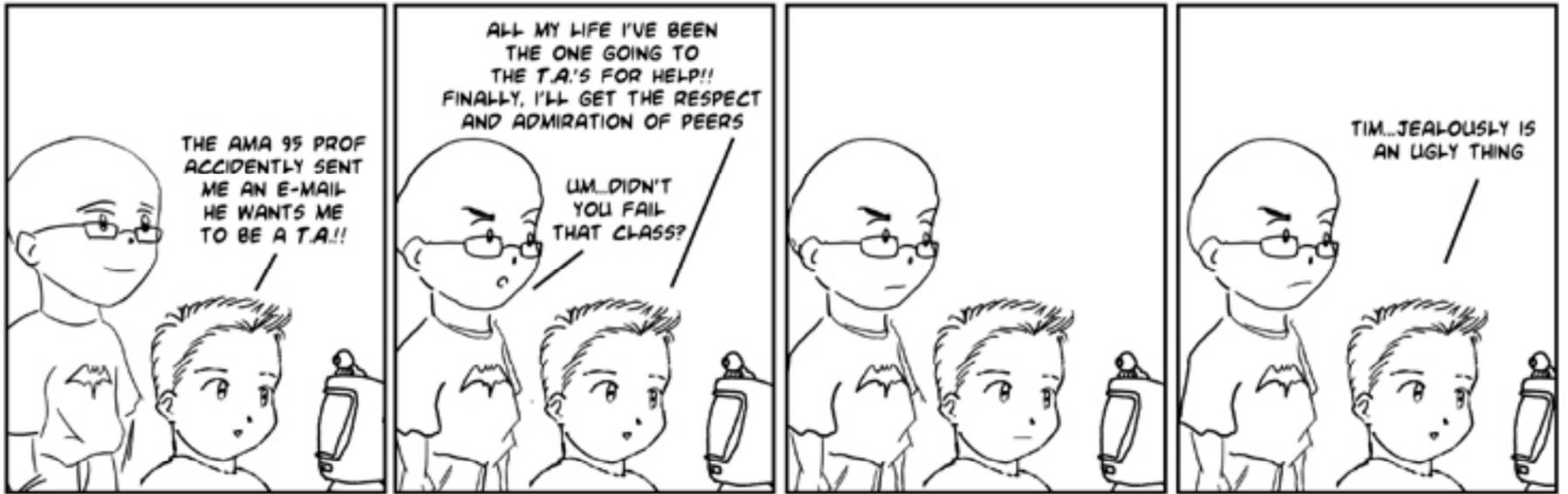
Jan. 22

Women's Basketball vs. Cal Lutheran L 57-28

Jan 24

Women's Basketball at Occidental L 81-37  
Men's Basketball at Occidental L 94-40  
Swimming and Diving vs. Pomona-Pitzer  
Men: W 111-101  
Women: L 169-66

## Comics

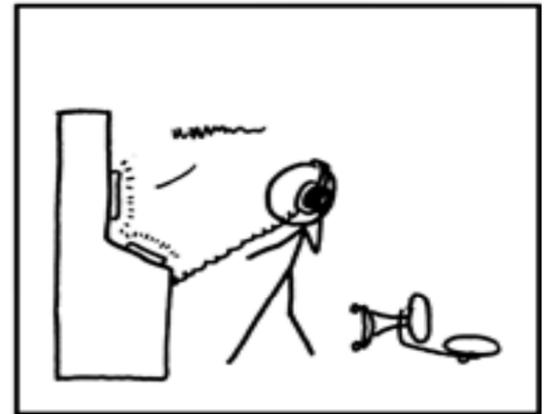
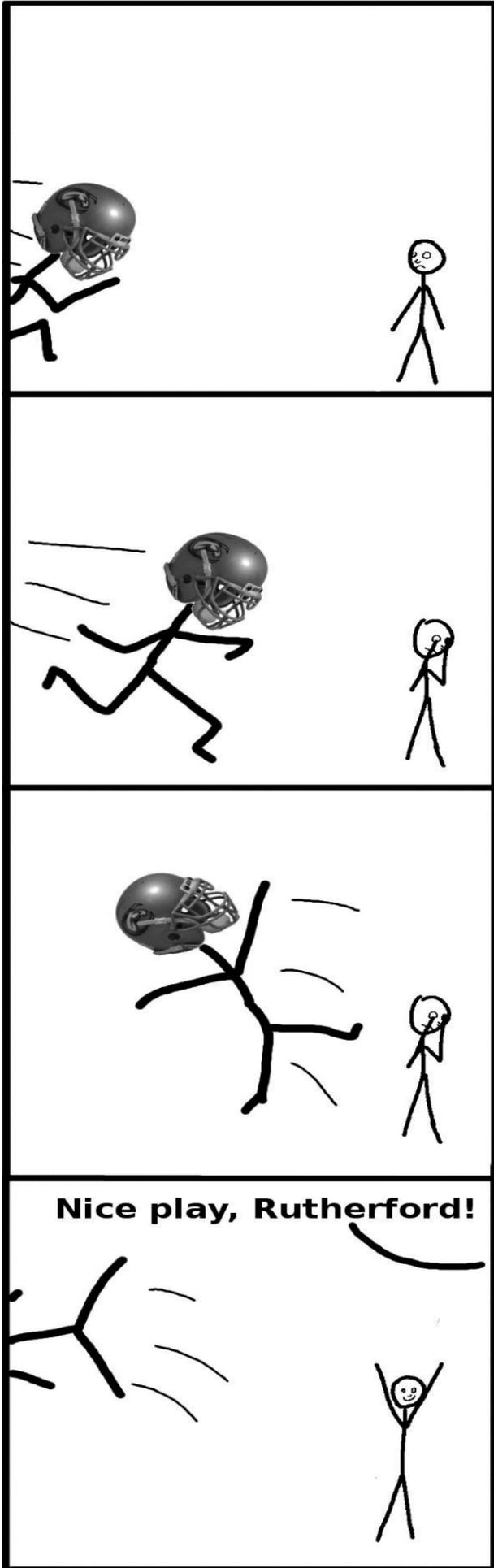


NOW AND THEN, I ANNOUNCE "I KNOW YOU'RE LISTENING" TO EMPTY ROOMS.

Sine Error

### Scatter

by Mark Eichenlaub



IF I'M WRONG, NO ONE KNOWS. AND IF I'M RIGHT, MAYBE I JUST FREAKED THE HELL OUT OF SOME SECRET ORGANIZATION.

HUH — STEVE JOBS ISN'T DOING A KEYNOTE THIS YEAR, CITING MASSIVE WEIGHT LOSS DUE TO SOME HORMONE PROBLEM.

TOO BAD. I BET APPLE WAS EXCITED ABOUT UNVEILING THE THINNEST AND LIGHTEST CEO IN THE INDUSTRY.



The California Tech  
Caltech 40-58  
Pasadena, CA 91125