



## Despite protests, cheaters must still wear red robes at graduation

**SUM JUAN**  
Contributing Writer

Over 30 years ago, a frustrated Board of Control instituted a radical policy: students found guilty of academic violations of the Honor Code would be required to wear red graduation robes rather than the traditional black of a B.S. recipient. Today, this rule still stands, but undergraduate sentiment seems to have reached the boiling point. With complaints and appeals being lodged with all levels of the administration, is this decades-old policy finally up for retirement?

### History

The BoC is charged with enforcing the Honor Code as it applies to Caltech's academics; violations are heard by the committee, which then issues a punishment to fit the crime. Penalties range from receiving a zero on the assignment in question, to receiving an F in the class, to suspension.

While these consequences may sound like apt deterrents, a poll held by the BoC almost four decades ago found that barely one

third of students – and even fewer alumni – believed that academic dishonesty would affect them beyond their undergraduate career. In order to persuade would-be offenders that their actions would not be forgotten at graduation, the BoC received permission from the Commencement Committee to dole out a new punishment: any student whose offense resulted in the loss of a full letter grade or more would be required to wear a red robe during commencement.

### Current Situation

Each June, scores of robed students walk across a stage to receive their diplomas in front of family and friends. Most of these students wear the black gowns that Caltech has used for over a century, but each year, a handful of students are forced to don red. While students and Hawthorne fans know the implications of the color scarlet, some guests are confused by the tradition.

One confounding circumstance is that members of Fleming tend to wear eye-catching red shirts, even around graduation. Many parents associate the red robes with the House, which leads to confusion when the actual

meaning of the gowns is explained. Flems are now reminded via e-mail to avoid their House color during commencement, but mistakes are still made.

Today, some members of the Caltech community believe that this punishment is the single greatest deterrent to major cheating that the BoC has ever introduced. One professor stated, "When I was just a graduate student here, I'd notice multiple directly-copied sets per term. As soon as the robe punishment began, that number plummeted, and it hasn't rebounded yet." Another professor, who has served on the BoC intermittently since before the policy was enacted, agreed. "We used to see cases where a student did no original work the entire term. Now, it's rare for a case to involve more than one problem set or quiz."

Some students argue that the robe policy reflects an unfair lack of trust from the administration.

One BoC rep suggests that the decline in cheating stems from a fundamental change in student mindset, not an additional penalty. "If you look at the data, cheating doesn't drop off as sharply as people claim. If robes were the reason, we would have seen a much different trend." Another student

objected to the punishment on more subjective grounds: "Sure, I can believe it makes students think twice before looking at their roommate's set, but is it really worth it to ruin everyone's graduation just for that?"

He's not alone. An informal ASCIT poll found that the majority of Seniors felt that red robes were disruptive and tasteless, or otherwise significantly detracted from the quality of graduation. Unfortunately, the administration's suggestion that cheaters be required to wear a scarlet F in lieu of red robes was met with heavy resistance from Flems, who felt that this compromise would cause even stronger negative associations with their House.

One sentiment shared by a non-negligible minority of professors and students alike is that, regardless of the results of the penalty, it has been in effect far too long to change. "Caltech is a university with strong traditions, and getting

rid of something just because it 'doesn't work' or 'looks bad' would be a grievous offense."

While students continue their ceaseless struggles against red robes, other committees may be quietly attempting to follow the BoC's lead. One slightly tipsy CRC member let slip that he had seen a draft of a proposal to force students convicted of non-academic Honor Code violations to wear yellow robes at graduation. A former UASH member admitted that her committee had discussed dressing students who had been reinstated at least twice in robes decorated with flames, but had rejected the idea due to cost. The ARC even suggested forcing professors with consistently low TQFR scores to wear neon green, but the idea was instantly shot down by the Faculty Board.

Will red robes vanish from the ranks of graduating seniors, or will future processions be painted with all colors of the rainbow?

## Vishnu's View

No.

## In this issue Rebecca Black to perform concert

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**NACHO TARNJOSH**  
Contributing Writer

After years of ASCIT paying enormous sums to recruit sub-par musical performers to entertain the student population, Caltech finally has a big-name star to call its very own. Rebecca Black, a relative newcomer to the music industry, has announced that she plans to hold a benefit concert at Caltech. She intends to donate part of the proceeds to each house's social budget, particularly to encourage weekend activities.

Commented the precocious young pop star, "It's Friday...Friday! You gotta get down on Friday!"

Historically, of course, Fridays have taken quite a contrary meaning at Caltech.

Said one sophomore, "Friday, Friday, gotta do two sets, a paper, and get a lab report done on Friday."



Rebecca Black gives her best impression of a Caltech student at a concert. - static.tvguide.com

However, he did admit that he was certainly looking forward to the weekend.

Though Black was originally slated to perform as a duo with the inspiring rap wordsmith (also her producer) featured in her music video, she recently announced that they would be joined by a special guest. "My friend...will be by my right," she stated mysteriously before adding, "but definitely not that chick who was on my left." A tad bit of controversy had

initially surrounded the event, with accusations that former IHC Chair Tim Black was trying to help a distant cousin succeed in the music industry. When asked if he was at all related to the young starlet, Black sighed and replied, "I wish." Though mostly undergrads have shown interest in the concert, a few professors are getting into the "Friday" spirit as well.

Said Physics Professor Stephen Frautschi, "I love the music video's use of special relativity! By setting

herself in the S'-Frame, Rebecca is able to move at a lethargic pace while 'everybody's rushin.' Relatively, of course."

He chuckled to himself, and then said the word "Dinosauraaaauuur."

Though ASCIT is grateful that Black is willing to perform pro bono, some were confused by her motives. Clarified Black in a press conference, "I know what it feels like to be made fun of, especially when it's your own talent that's being ridiculed! I figure that if anyone can empathize with me, it's those nerds at Caltech." Noting the date on his watch, Black's producer ended the conference by giddily exclaiming, "Check

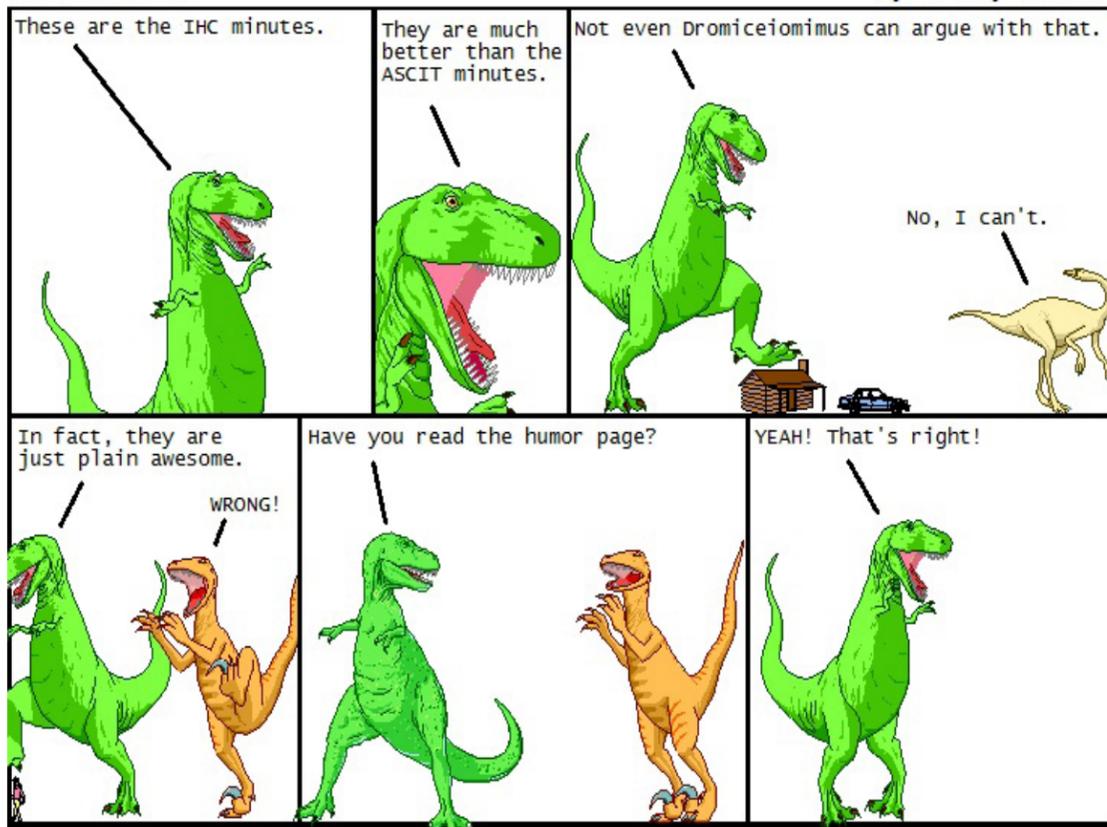
my time, it's Friday, it's a weekend, we gonna have fun, c'mon, c'mon, y'all!" The pair then exited to a waiting convertible, at which point Black poignantly asked, "Which seat can I take?" Given that the car was a two-seater, she opted for the passenger's side.

On the whole, it would seem that Caltech students are eagerly anticipating Black's debut collegiate performance. So give us your best, RB.

We so excited.

IHC Minutes

by Timmy Black



## ASCIT minutes

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes  
March 29, 2010

Officers Present: Chris Hallacy, Laura Conwill, Juan Diego Caporale, Mario Zubia, Margaret Chiu, Prakriti Gaba

Guests present: One or Two People

Call to order: 10:14:48.3 pm

Funding Requests: Guests only come to ask for money.

President's report: Hallacy is meeting an administrator.

V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair): Chiu tried to ask professors to teach better, but they were busy doing research.

V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair): Laura commented that she missed having Will at the meetings but had nothing else to add.

Director of Operations: Diego secretly told all ASCIT members the combos to the SAC rooms. His announcement was set to the dubstep remix of Rebecca Black's hit song, "Friday".

Treasurer: Zubia reports clubs that ask for money tend to get it. He then requested that he be allowed to skip all remaining meetings in order to spend the next two years preparing for medical school applications.

Social Director: Prakriti says all she can hear in her head is "Formal! Formal! Formal!" Other members don ASCIT-issued ear plugs and noise filters.

Secretary: An Unknown Person will write these minutes in the third person.

Scheduling: Many meetings will be held some time in the future.

Discussion: The BoD wants many things.

Meeting adjourned: 11:37:29.8 pm

Submitted by An Unknown Person  
Future ASCIT Secretary

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# Write articles for the Tech

get paid up to \$30



Students were recently given a survey regarding the ASCIT body and the above picture was overwhelmingly the most popular response to the question "What does new ASCIT president Chris Hallacy look like?" Students agreed almost unanimously that "Chris" was male, but were much fuzzier on the specifics of his anatomy. He also seems to have a strong campaign association with men's restrooms.

# Lil' girls should step off Lil' Wayne

**BRANDON "LIL' B" MCCARTNEY**  
The BasedGod

SWAG. Last week when I was recording another 676-song mixtape in Pasadena and chillin' with my homies at Caltech, I stumbled upon an article entitled "Lil' girls speak out against Lil' Wayne lyrics." I was like, "Dang, these kids like Justin Bieber and Willow must be bringing a lot of young haters into the game. Man, these haters are only 5, 9, and 10 years old. Why are they even listening to Weezy?"

The first thing I did was try to understand where these young rhymers were coming from. So you should all check out my new song, "Justin Bieber," cause I really tried to get in the whole mindset. I was all like "55 Bieber swag off the meter/50 on my s\*\*\* cause I look like Bieber."

Now I may be biased, but I gotta give a shout out to my boy Lil Wayne. The dude's an entrepreneur, an innovator, and an inspiration to all of us. The three girls' beef with

him pertains to his lyrics (specifically references to drugs and female inferiority), but how many Weezy songs have they listened to? These girls be cherry-picking all day.

First of all, Lil Wayne is obviously a romantic at heart. "You send a rose, I pick some flowers and send her those...With you, baby. With you and only you...We probably ain't supposed to be together, but I wonder if our love affair could last forever...If everyone was like you, the world would be a better place..." (With You Ft. Drake). Man that's some CLASSY \*\*\*\*. Which one of you ladies would not swoon at the idea of your man handpicking flowers for you and telling you that you're the only one



The 10-, 5-, and 9-year old (in order from left to right) members of the group Watoto from the Nile are pictured here in this photograph (slightly blurred in an attempt to block facial recognition) flashing derogatory signs as taunts to rival rapper Lil' Wayne. The youngest member refused to speak in the group's first interview, ostensibly to send a message to Weezy that he is not worth her words. She is pictured in the middle, here sporting a scowl and the classic "Peace is Cheesy: We at War, Weezy" t-shirt, which the group has popularized.

- starcasm.net

## No to April Fools Editions!

**DICK BABCOCK**  
Contributing Writer

Newspapers, especially "The California Tech," are too dignified to participate in April Fool's Day antics. Caltech's paper should be as serious as often as the institution it covers: all the time.

“

The humor page is hilarious, but allowing that humor to bleed into the rest of the paper will introduce bias...

”

"The Tech" is the primary source of real news for the events occurring around campus. To falsely cover that at any time could be catastrophic. If Millikan Library collapses early in the morning on April 1st, after the paper, which has an article about the building, has been sent to the printer, would that not be a tragedy for both the paper and its readers? Readers do not care when the paper was sent to the printer, they only care about what is in it on the day they read it. As a result, such an article would make the entire paper seem insensitive.

If someone failed to see the callousness of the article, the only other way he could see it is as actual news. Would it not be a shame if "The Tech" made fun of the fact that no one liked the

nine-story building and confused readers believed the people of Caltech were coldhearted thugs for forgetting about the lonely librarian who was seriously injured in the event? Of course, it would.

However, in light of all the important stories "The Tech" does cover on other days of the year, some people would argue that

"The Onion." As for the language, an April Fool's paper could easily use the seven words to summon Beelzebub's own George Carlin out of his grave, and no sane person would desire such an event.

Second, as for continuing the April Fool's edition because it has been distributed every year, read "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson. Seriously, read it before it is spoiled up ahead. It is a phenomenal short story.

Now that the story has been read, the point of bringing it up is that the staff of "The Tech" should not be

like the townspeople in the story, stoning the dignity of the paper merely because they have done so as a tradition. In reality, the newspaper has an even smaller basis to kill their sense of reason than those people had to destroy theirs.

The people did what they did in order to get crops for the following year, but "The Tech" receives neither more food nor a greater audience. In order to get the readers that it wants, "The Tech" has to write better for every single issue, not participate in a lowly annual tradition.

Keep the gags on the humor page in the back, where they belong.

No one wants that sense of humor creeping into the rest of the newspaper. Not even on April Fool's Day.

he ever wants? If you're still not satisfied, check out this diddy from "Lollipop": "Lil' mamma got a swagger like mine/She even wear her hair down her back like mine/I make her feel right when it's wrong like lyin'/Man, she ain't never had a love like mine." You already know: Weezy's all about being a cute couple and stuff.

As for the drugs objection, Lil Wayne countered that during an interview with Blender magazine. "I don't do too many [drugs]. I just smoke weed and drink. But I'll never f\*\*k with no more coke. It's not about the bad high; it's just about the acne: Cocaine makes your face break out. I'm a pretty boy." Like P Diddy, Lil Wayne understands the importance of moisturizing and keeping a clear complexion, and he obviously values his appearance more than doing drugs. Looking good is Lil Wayne's anti-drug. On a side note, I think Snoop Dogg is in the process of smoking out the entire weed supply of the world ("\*\*\*\*\* say smoke me out. Yeah, I really doubt it." from "Kush" by Dr. Dre Ft. Akon & Snoop Dogg), which should eliminate the marijuana issue completely.

Not only is Lil Wayne keepin' it real in respect to women and drugs, he also has repeatedly stated his support of higher education (He's the person who inspired me to get my own Player Haters Degree from Caltech).

"I school you \*\*\*\*\* but none of you get A's" hints at his disappointment at Techers for failing to keep up with his own impressive academic record, despite his attempts at teaching. Furthermore, Lil Wayne states that "she give me good brain like she studied at Cambridge," indicating his support of Caltech's exchange program with Cambridge. A gentleman and a scholar, Lil

Wayne epitomizes the modern day l'uomo universales.

With that being said, I would like to suggest that these three girls desist from drinkin' more of that nastyhaterade and get some wonton soup until they are older and can make developed and thought out decisions for themselves, instead of pulling publicity stunts like this.

As a fellow rapper, I have much respect for Lil Wayne ("Free Lil Wayne") and can only aspire to be more like him. I try to be respectful towards females ("\*\*\*\* My \*\*\*\*" and "\*\*\*\* On My \*\*\*\*") and mostly abstain from drugs since I'm so good-looking ("Pretty \*\*\*\*\*" and "The Pretty \*\*\*\*\* Is Back!"). In particular, I stay away from drugs 'cause I be lookin' like Bill Clinton, JK Rowling, AND Justin Bieber. Lil B the Based God swag to the maximum, swag on a hundred thousand, hundred trillion. Check out my new website [www.basedworld.com](http://www.basedworld.com) and my new mixtape Illusions of Grandeur. You can catch me at Coachella soon.

This is Lil B the Based God peacing out.

Woo Woo Swag.



Lil' B woo woo swagging at home.

- aceshowbiz.com

## Housing outed as criminal organization

**SHAMOL BLAMOP**  
Whiny Caltech Student

PASADENA, CA- In an unprecedented crackdown by the FBI, more than 30 members of Caltech Housing face charges of extortion, and intrusion of solitude.

Prosecutors announced on Thursday that Caltech would finally be free of tyrannical housing policies as 34 housing associates were nabbed in one of the biggest organized crime stings to ever target a research university. While the names of those arrested were not released, the attorney general's office issued a statement implying that both high profile "officers" and lowly "soldiers" were charged.

The charges cover crimes spread over several years, including several instances of coercion against undergraduates.

One victim, who would prefer to remain anonymous due to fears that several housing "bosses" were not charged, described his terrifying encounter with housing. "During my freshman year, I replaced my

uncomfortable, housing issued chair with a rolling computer chair that has actual back support, and I put my old one in storage.

When I moved out and went to find my old chair, it had been stolen, and housing charged me \$400 to replace it. When the charges were issued yesterday, the FBI told me that housing upper management

Allegedly, these officers ordered extra holes to be cut in the ceiling and then charged several houses for damage to institute property.

One member of the FBI, who would like to remain anonymous due to the ongoing investigation, said that this particular offense alerted the bureau to housing's growing power and impudence

According to the attorney general, these rooms belonged to those students who had issued complaints against housing, skipped Math 1a, or showed signs of happiness for more than two days in a row.

This was particularly troubling to the FBI, as it indicates that members of the Caltech administration may be involved, although no charges have been formally issued.

The attorney general's office would not comment on suggestions that housing was involved in the disappearance of the so-called "Undergraduate Dean," stating ongoing investigations.

The Caltech president's office issued a statement claiming rumors that the new Dean is a housing puppet are unfounded.

"Yes, Dean Kiewiet bears a striking resemblance to Dean Hall. No, this is not a superficial attempt by Caltech housing to lull students into a false sense of comfort through familiarity."

More charges are expected to be issued in the coming days, but Caltech students are already feeling liberated.

"Today, I left a fold-up chair in the hallway and nobody confiscated it," said one elated Techer.

Of course, not all students will feel the same elation. The FBI announced that any student who feels they have somehow been victimized by housing should immediately seek counseling.

One student, who did not receive such counseling and began facing withdrawal symptoms, attempted to pay \$8000 for a \$20 bookshelf at IKEA.

Paramedics were called to the scene, and the student is expected to make a full recovery.

While this can certainly be called a victory for the huddled Caltech masses, there are certainly darker days ahead. Caltech Dining Services, long suspected to be an accomplice of Caltech Housing, faced no charges in the sting.

Known to be quite clever in avoiding scrutiny and prosecution, CDS is expected to grow even stronger, now.

Students may face many an undercooked chicken breast before the true threat of organized crime is vanquished from the institute.

“ Today, I left a fold-up chair in the hallway and nobody confiscated it. ”

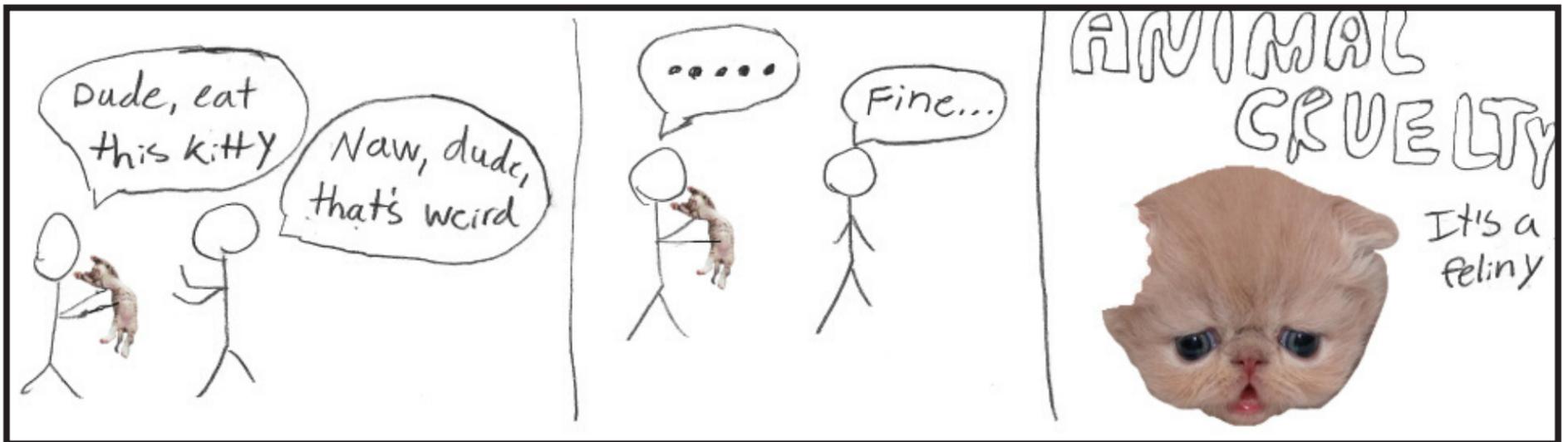
- Elated Techer

had ordered their employees to move all the chairs they could find to the housing office so they could force people to buy them back.”

Another case of racketeering occurred over winter break, when Housing officers installed phone lines in all the houses.

and spurred them to action.

Other charges include violation of privacy against certain students. Under the pretense of killing bed bugs, the housing office ordered several low level soldiers to plant listening devices in so-called "dirty rooms."



## Cattywumpus

by Dr. Maxamilien Benedict, III

**HAPPY APRIL FOOL'S DAY!**

**-From all of the editors at  
The Tech**

The California  
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