

Students recognized for leadership, academics

Quick Facts

Housner: Tanvir Bhuyain

Green: Anna Craig

Froehlich: Matthew Mayers

Haagen-Smit: Megan Jackson, Zihao Yan, Marlyn Moore

Ziegler: James Paek, Kenneth Hung

Noland: Aric Fitz-Coy, Aarathi Minisandram, Giulio Rottaro, Shruti Mishra

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE
Contributing Writer

The Housner, Green, Froehlich, Haagen-Smit, and Zeigler Awards were presented during a luncheon at the Athenaeum, on May 9th hosted by Dean D. Roderick Kiewiet.

Tanvir Bhuyain, a senior with a double major in Mathematics and Physics will receive this year's George W. Housner Prize for Academic Excellence and Original Research at commencement.

This award is given to a senior or seniors in the upper 20% of their class for an outstanding piece of original scientific research.

Anna Craig, a senior in Applied Physics with a minor in Aerospace Engineering was presented the George W. and Bernice E. Green Prize.

The Green Prize is awarded to an undergraduate or undergraduates in any class for original research, an original paper or essay, or other evidence of creative scholarship

beyond the normal requirements of specific courses.

The Jack E. Froehlich Memorial Award is for an outstanding junior in the top 5% of the class who shows outstanding promise for a creative professional career. Matthew Mayers, a junior in Mathematics is this year's recipient.

Megan Jackson a junior in Chemistry, Zihao Yan a sophomore in Chemistry, and Marlyn Moore, a sophomore in Biology are the recipients of the 2012 Arie J. Haagen-Smit Memorial Award, which is given to a chemist or biologist who has shown academic promise and has made recognized contributions to Caltech.

Geunwook "James" Paek, a junior in Applied and Computational Mathematics and Ka Kin "Kenneth" Hung, a sophomore in Mathematics were chosen as the joint winners of the 2012 Fredrick J. Zeigler Memorial Award. This award recognizes students studying pure or applied mathematics in their sophomore or junior year, who have shown excellence in scholarship as demonstrated in class activities or in preparation of an original paper or essay in any subject area.

Aric Fitz-Coy, Aarathi Minisandram, Giulio Rottaro and Shruti Mishra were awarded the Robert L. Noland Leadership Award at a dinner presentation in the Athenaeum Library on May 14, 2012. The Robert L. Noland Leadership Award is for outstanding Caltech students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities and have encouraged and supported others in realizing their own leadership capabilities.



Seniors who were given the Robert L. Noland Leadership Award pose after being presented with their awards at a banquet in the Athenaeum Library. In back, from left to right: Giulio Rottaro and Aric Fitz-Coy. In front, from left to right: Shruti Mishra and Aarathi Minisandram

- Provided by Beth Larranaga

In this issue

NEWS

New ASCIT Meeting Minutes **2**

OPINION

The Avengers isn't groundbreaking, but it's funny **3**

FEATURE

An interview with Joss Whedon **5**

SPORTS

Some final things Amol has to say **7**

News briefs from around the globe

Helping readers burst out of the Caltech bubble

Need to know

< **100** words about the world this week – topics sorted from good to bad

by Sam Barnett – links to full stories available at barnett.caltech.edu/news

Mind-controlled robot	100 electrodes allow paralyzed patients to move a robotic arm	[NATURE]
Facebook goes public	\$ 107 billion valuation of firm – record number of trades in a day	[CNN]
Defense spending bill	\$ 643 billion approved by House – uncertain future in Senate	[CNN]
Stock market losses	▼ 4.3% – worst week of 2012 for S&P 500 – concerns about Europe	[CNN]
Earthquake in Italy	7 dead – 50 injured – thousands of survivors living in tents and cars	[CNN]
Chinese tunnel explodes	19 killed at construction site – poor safety standards criticized	[FOX]
Fighting in Yemen	36 people killed in violence between government and al-Qaeda	[USA TODAY]

Food with Mannion!

Do you like eating food?

How about free food at nice restaurants?

Ever want to tell the world exactly what you think of said food?

The Tech will be beginning a new column to chronicle the foodie experiences of new writers every other week... The Catch: They'll be going head-to-head with Tom Mannion who will be reviewing the same restaurant. If you have ever thought you were more of a gourmand than our resident master chef, now's your chance to prove it!

Email us for a spot on the list at tech@caltech.edu

The California Tech

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
advertising e-mail: business@caltech.edu
editorial e-mail: tech@caltech.edu

Editors-in-Chief
Jonathan Schor
Stanford Schor

News Editor
Sandhya Chandrasekaran

Sports Editor
Amol Kamat

Staff
Sam Barnett
Casey Handmer
Yang Hu
Jonathan Ikpeazu
Clement Lacroute
Rebecca Lawler
Mary Nguyen
Neha Samdaria
Eugene Vinitzky
Caroline Yu
Chris Zheng

Circulation Manager
Michael Paluchniak

Advisor
Richard Kipling

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 as plain-text attachments, including the author's name, by Friday of the week before publication. *The Tech* does accept anonymous contributions under special circumstances. 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. For subscription information, please send mail to "Subscriptions."

Write articles for the Tech

get paid up to \$30

ASCIT Minutes

May 14, 2012

Officers Present: Chris Hallacy, Diego Caporale, Mario Zubia, Misha Raffiee, (in lieu of Christian Rivas)

Pushpa Neppala, Puikai Cheng, Michelle Tang, Laura Santoso, Allika Walvekar

Updates

1. Secretary (Laura)
 - a. Added House Excomm information to the "Contact" section on Donut
2. Social Director (Michelle)
 - a. Friday June 1st Europarty
3. Treasurer (Puikai)
 - a. Still have to fund OASIS for their Spring Show
4. Director of Operations (Mario)
 - a. Working on obtaining the addresses from last year's graduates. Big T (2010-2011) should be arriving in the next two weeks.
 - b. Will be meeting with Dev Team (Donut) and President to discuss Donut changes especially with clubs.
5. IHC Update (Mischa)
 - a. Dates for the formal dinners
 - i. South Houses together on June 1st, individual house dining halls
 - ii. North Houses on May 30th in their dining halls
 - iii. This is a solution to not having dinner in Chandler because people were opposed to that
 - iv. Avery will have theirs on May 22nd in their dining hall
 - b. Post Doc Mentoring Program
 - i. Meeting with them as they are interested in going to each individual house to get to know the students
 - c. Rotation is beginning early on the Thursday before school begins and lasting a week.
 - d. House UCCs Dates (Housing Costs are covered for these extra days)
 - i. Sept 19th UCC's moving in
 - ii. UCC training from Sept 20-22nd
 - iii. UCC will be helping with move in day on Sept 23rd
 - e. Alumni Events this weekend
6. ARC
 - a. Ishan Khetarpal is the new ARC secretary
 - b. Undergraduate seminar series this (Dr. Michael Cross of Physics) Thursday in Avery
 - c. ASCIT Teaching awards: All invited are attending
 - d. Faculty Board looked at the Catalog changes for new core and approved an exchange program with graduate students
7. President
 - a. Leadership Conference was a success.
 - i. Everyone should answer surveys about how it went
 - b. New secretary: Allika Walvekar
 - c. Bechtel meeting on Friday

Caltech Couture: Ray-Bans are a timeless classic

ALEX LANGERFELD
Staff Writer

We see these things everywhere now. Their proud owners display these prized possessions however and wherever they can. You can find them at the beach, on rugged camping trips, and at fancy parties where everyone is dressed to the nines. Of course, I'm talking about Ray-Bans.

for the U. S. Army Air Corp, and the glasses were meant to protect the US Aviators from the sun's ultraviolet rays as well as look stylish on the brave American men overseas. The same year that Bausch & Lomb founded Ray-Ban, they took out a patent on the soon-to-become legendary glasses.

American pilots liked the Army-issued frames so much that the large, wire-rimmed glasses quickly earned the nickname "aviators,"

Douglas MacArthur wearing them while landing on the beach in the Philippines.

Back home in the US, aviators gained even more popularity as the ladies fell in love with these previously manly glasses. Ray-Ban caught the fashion wave and in 1952 issued a new model of sunglasses called the Wayfarer. These are the classic, thick-rimmed glasses of black plastic. The

Wayfarers were an instant fit as they seemed to flatter almost any face shape. From then on, Ray-Ban has been on a constant tide of success.

Though it's been weathering through troughs every decade or so, the company comes back each time stronger than before, either with the help of a new or redesigned model, or with tactful product placement strategies.

Today "Ray-Bans" carry a stylish and somewhat retro vibe, which seems to fit with almost any style. As with all successful brands, there

are many fakes that have evolved to mimic the real deal. There are innumerable many versions of the aviators now, some made by very distinguished brands that

to cost much more than the real, at which point I start to wonder about the worth of that expensive fake. Yet other fakes are often very cheap and the money saved may heavily

“

Many (fake wayfarers) have been observed on the heads of Caltech Admissions Officers, especially on our great Owen Wolf...

”

American pilots liked the Army-issued frames so much that the large, wire-rimmed glasses quickly earned the nickname 'aviators.'

”

Ray-Ban has a long history dating back to 1937 when it was founded by Bausch & Lomb.

The company created its first pair of sunglasses on commission

which they bear to this day. By the time WWII ended, Ray-Ban aviators had become a signature of the US Army, partially due to the glorified photos of General

often cost many times more than the original aviators, while others sell for under \$5 at any beach boardwalk. There are many fake wayfarers as well. Many have been observed on the heads of Caltech Admissions Officers, especially on our great Owen Wolf, as well as on the ogling Prefrosh that swarmed our campus a few months ago.

I guess "to each his own" when it comes to the dilemma of "real vs. fake". Sometimes "fake" comes out

outweigh the worth of the true product. Again, this is a dilemma that depends on each individual's tastes and needs. Nevertheless, I can say that true Ray-Bans are very well made with very high quality Italian glass lenses and will last years if taken good care of.

Therefore, they are a reasonable addition to any wardrobe, considering that they never seem to go out of style and have a very strong and patriotic legacy.

The Avengers is a fun, if somewhat campy, flick

NERISSA HOGLEN
Staff Writer

In service of full disclosure, I confess that I had little interest in or experience with comicbook superheroes before watching the origin story prequels to Joss Whedon's *The Avengers*. So I am not qualified to comment on the wish-fulfillment aspects of the film. This may also account for my reluctance to gush.

That being said, *The Avengers* was a good movie. I was surprised to discover after leaving the theater that nearly three hours had gone by—it felt like half that.

It was not merely well-paced, but very cleverly designed around the balance of action and exposition. Whedon immediately introduced the central antagonist (the Norse god Loki) and the central conflict (his plan to invade the Earth with an army of otherwise-unidentified aliens).

Loki is one of the disappointing elements in the story. As a figure from Norse mythology, he is not evil, just complicated. He is a force of chaos, not malice. But Marvel, and Whedon, cast him unsympathetically.

He is ambitious and disloyal, bent on serving his own petty sense of self-advancement and vengeance.

Nowhere does the movie acknowledge that chaos is necessary for balance.

The heroes are somewhat more interesting, though no less petty. Their squabbling seems contrived, an unrealistic device

to force them into answering the questions, "what would happen if Thor fought Iron Man? What about Black Widow versus The Hulk?" It seems that people who like the Marvel universe are desperate to know the answers to these questions, but I don't particularly care.

Their own poor behavior also undermines the ostensible "message" of the movie. It half-heartedly offers a comment on

self-serving ambition, giving the impression that Joss Whedon wanted to dispense with the moralizing but could not eradicate it completely. Between this and the lame interpersonal tensions, though, the serious aspects of the movie are lacking.

Fortunately, the acting and humor more than save *The Avengers*. Tom Hiddleston (Loki), Robert Downey, Jr. (Tony Stark/Iron Man), and Mark Ruffalo (Bruce

Banner/The Incredible Hulk) give surprisingly nuanced, believable, and amusing performances. Mark Ruffalo makes a particularly engaging Hulk, capturing the character's bitter struggle with self-control.

The humor in the movie is delightful. Even the doourest, most serious character, Captain America, shoots off snappy, snarky one-liners. Robert Downey, Jr.'s Iron Man delivers scolding lessons

in sarcasm constantly. The charm of the movie was definitely that I laughed through most of it.

And if I wasn't laughing, it was usually because I was too scared by the special effects.

Even the credits were pretty funny, right to the very end (hint, hint).

I doubt *The Avengers* will win any Oscars, but if you missed the ASCIT screening, it is still worth checking out.



Diversity should mean more than just race

SANDHYA CHANDRASEKARAN
News Editor

The third annual Caltech Student Health Fair was a grand spectacle, complete with the American Red Cross Blood Drive and Spanish vibes and Samba dancers from the concurrent Semana Latina festivities.

San Pasqual Walk was bustling with a wide audience of undergraduates, graduates, faculty and community members eager to get a taste for the exotic food, but also to gain valuable information on physical, emotional and mental health from the dozens of organizations with booths that lined the pathway.

As in past years, the Health Fair showcased both on- and off-campus organizations dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles in people of all ages; however, this year included several welcome and notable additions.

Not only were there free organic fresh fruit samples provided at different booths throughout the fair, but this year's fair also included the major organic farm "Farm Organic Box."

This group not only supplies organic fruit to a vast majority of grocery stores and farm markets across California, but also offers the opportunity of scheduled deliveries of fruit and vegetable medley boxes at wholesale prices, which attracted many students and staff to sign up.

This convenient method of acquiring fresh fruit definitely added a very applicable aspect to the Health Fair, as many Techers often find themselves resorting to commonly available junk foods over healthier nourishment.

Another prominent aspect of the fair was the Active Minds table, which featured several brochures and cute paraphernalia on how laughing can relieve stress, a nice, personable touch to the entire event.

The Caltech club is a chapter that only recently came into existence this past year, and with much undergraduate and graduate enthusiasm it has thrived and steadily grown in scope.

The club even had a sign up sheet for free massages, which every stressed-out Techer could not have been more eager to experience.

Active Minds is an on-campus organization whose mission complements the efforts of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), an off-campus resource for mental health education, advocacy and support, which was also in attendance. Half a dozen full-time nurses from the Huntington Hospital Cancer Center, among other health organizations, had elaborately set up tables with breast models to provide insight into the difficulty of diagnosing breast 'lumps' and pamphlets spanning a wide array of health conditions and dietary requirements.

In addition, a sleep technician from the Huntington Sleep Center



Top: Sandhya Chandrasekaran, Tech editor and Health Fair volunteer, proudly displays a sign for the Health Fair, while other volunteers mill around and help everything run smoothly. Students teamed up with representatives from various companies to get out the word about living in a healthy manner.

Right: Students relax while being treated to free massages courtesy of some Health Fair volunteers. Among the many companies present at the Health Fair, most doled out free goodies (like the massages) and all doled out free advice on how to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Bottom: The day of the Health Fair was also one of the days of Semana Latina, the Caltech week-long celebration of Hispanic culture, music, and food. While students were out and about enjoying the amenities of the Health Fair, they were also treated to a performance by professional samba dancers, pictured below. Samba is a Brazilian dance with African roots and is seen as a cultural staple throughout many parts of South America.

- Melissa Xu



provided tips to enhance the quality of sleep despite the pressure of everyday stress. Meanwhile, the Caltech Health and Counseling Centers provided useful brochures about numerous types of mental disorders, along with adorable squishy yellow duckies! The Las Encinas Hospital booth provided stress management tips and stress balls and organized a ball toss, complete with prizes.

Other active student organizations participating included Y Outdoors and Alpine Club, which promoted their regular activities involving active lifestyles. The Caltech Women's Center promoted its resources that provides support for Caltech women and its programs complemented the activities of the Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project (WHRAP) of Los Angeles County.

Representatives from WHRAP touted their mission to keep our community healthy by reducing the number of new infections of HIV/AIDS throughout Los Angeles County.

Since its small beginnings as a small support group for people living with HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County, WHRAP has grown to provide an array of services to people living with HIV/AIDS including psychosocial case management and mental health services. Moreover, Aetna Student Health provided information and clarifications on the student health insurance medical coverage.

Overall, the Caltech Student Health Fair, amidst the clear, sunny skies, offered a welcome and enlightening liveliness to the Caltech campus.

Under the leadership of junior Catherine Xie, the Student Health Fair has vastly expanded over the years thanks to the support, organization, and dedication of students and staff. Combined with the cultural festivities of Semana Latina and the American Red Cross Blood Drive, the event definitely constituted a celebration of life at its very core.

The Tech talks with Joss Whedon about *The Avengers*

AMOL KAMAT
Sports Editor

Joss Whedon, writer and director of The Avengers, recently gave an interview for several college papers, including The California Tech. Whedon's work includes Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Firefly, and Serenity, all of which enjoy a huge cult following. The Avengers is his first full-length superhero movie (unless you count Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog, which I do).

The California Tech: What was your process in writing the film? Did you already have a directorial vision when you were penning the screenplay?

Joss Whedon: Um, yes, I did. Half of writing a script is, is writing visually, is figuring out what you need it to look and feel as much what they're gonna say. The process, therefore, was pretty organic, particularly also because we had such a tight schedule, they needed some things to be worked on, set pieces and action sequences before I'd even written the script. So I was writing visual cues and, and action descriptions before I was, you know, I had finished structuring the story, since we knew where we were going.

CT: Is there something from your childhood experience with the Avengers that especially resonated with you and that you're bringing to this movie?

JW: Well, the fact that the Avengers are all really, really messed up people, I think is a fine reflection of, of me. With The Avengers itself, the thing that I loved was that it was, one, the comic books, it was a little bit steeped in science fiction that, you know, Marvel was known for its gritty realism and, and Spider Man was sort the template for, oh, they could just be people in New York. And even though the Avengers made their home in New York, they were so often out in that space and dealing with, you know, artificial intelligence and grand beings from another world and gods and monsters. And, I love that element. That's definitely a part of the film.

CT: How did you mentally prepare yourself to carry on the stories of all these established super heroes with an already fervent backing?

JW: I am the fervent backing, so it wasn't that hard to key in.

I've done a lot of work, for things that already exist [...] I've worked on the X-Men, I wrote an alien movie, uh, not necessarily the best one, but, um, and at working as a script doctor, you come in, you know, after things have been established.

Even on a TV show, even if you're the one who established them every time you write a script,

you're dealing with an established universe.

So, it's not hard for me to fall into the cadences of these people. In fact, it's a lot easier when you've already seen them being acted, um, in the other movies.

for Marvel. And then, they also were very, very accommodating in terms of letting us blow up their city. Filming there was actually a joy. Cleveland is a really cool place, and it has a lot of great culture, it has a lot of great restaurants, and

S.H.I.E.L.D., literally, and that puts him at a remove from everybody. Even if he likes them, he knows he's putting them in harms way. Hopefully I'm not putting my actors in harms way. Hopefully I'm not even making them uncomfortable.

the first guy Tony Stark's come across really who operates on his level intellectually who isn't a villain.

And the way Tony nudges him and Tony's particular attitude about the Hulk is endearing and cool. But I also love Tony and Steve and how much they can't stand each other.

And I'm very invested in Natasha and Hawkeye and their deep, deep friendship, so, um, you know, oh, I love them all. I hate this question.

CT: If you were going to insert yourself into a super hero movie, what powers would you have?

JW: I would have the power of invisibility, and then I wouldn't have to show up for as many shooting days.

CT: College students have a lot of options this summer with movies to see during their summer break—why should college students have it first on their list to see The Avengers?

JW: I think The Avengers is the kind of movie that I grew up wanting to make and thought they had stopped making. When I grew up, the summer movie was, literally created as a concept, and all my life I wanted to do something like that, something like the first Indiana Jones, something that was steeped in character, in love of the genre that it was portraying, had intelligence, had real acting, had a story that unfolded and wasn't just a sort of big premise that you already knew going in, or isn't based on Parcheesi or something just because it has a name.

More and more, summer movies have felt a little cynical. There are very, very big exceptions to that, but that has been the case when people throw so much money down. They're not interested in a story, they're interested in just barraging you with excitement and imagery, and brand names.

And, Marvel doesn't operate that way. They care about the people. That's why they hire some of the best actors in the business to play their heroes, and this is an old-fashioned movie. It's, a little bit bigger than life, but it's very human.

The Avengers is in theaters now, and you hopefully saw it Friday, May 11 with free tickets from ASCIT. I thought the movie was pretty phenomenal, but, if you know anything about me, you'd know I would follow Joss Whedon into battle. In all seriousness, this is one of the best superhero movies I have seen since Iron Man, and it may even rival 1978's Superman. Again, if you know anything about me, that's a pretty big compliment. Whedon has taken a fairly simple plot idea and woven it into a great summer blockbuster while retaining the classic 'Joss Whedon film' feel.



afterellen.com

CT: Because Marvel is attempting to create an interlocking film universe, did you feel the need to maintain a directing style, an aesthetic similar to work of the other Marvel Studio directors?

JW: There's no way you could make a movie that looked like a Jon Favreau, Kenneth Brown, Joe Johnston, Louie Lettieri movie. You have to take from each of them the thing that is useful and will jive with the rest of them. I do think, you know, the DNA of, of the Marvel movie begins with Iron Man, and that's very grounded in the reel. I tend to be a tiny bit florid with my camera work and my dialog, but hopefully in a way that feels like a realistic version of a comic book universe.

CT: Why was Cleveland picked as a shooting location and what was it like shooting there?

JW: Uh, Cleveland, uh, um, had some financial advantages rebate wise, and that's always a big thing

I'd been in the desert for almost a year, and so by the time I got to Cleveland, it was like being in Versailles.

It was so opulent and fun. And—and it had so many locations, that worked beautifully for so many different places without, you know, hardly any dressing.

You know, we found, uh, particularly Stuttgart and New York were the two main places that it was replicating.

But, we were able to shoot so much practically because of that. It was very, very gratifying for us and, you know, the people were really, really welcoming.

CT: The Avengers is based on S.H.I.E.L.D. director, Nick Fury, trying to unite heroes with extraordinary powers and egos.

Did you feel like Nick Fury trying to bring the actors into a team concept and how did you handle creative differences in this type of situation?

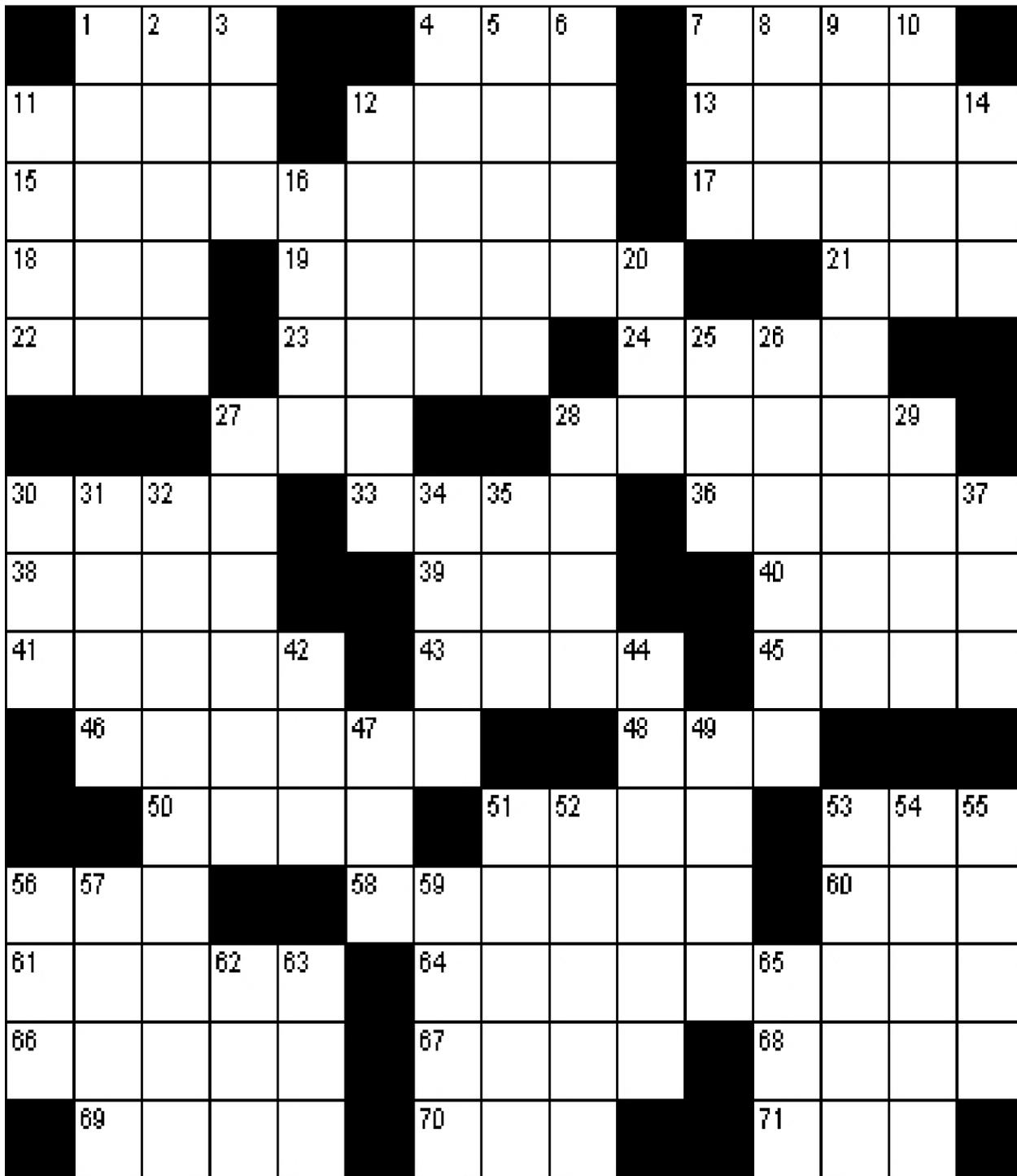
JW: I felt very much like Nick Fury. He is, you know, the director of

I'm not nearly as intelligent or manipulative as Nick and I didn't have as many problems because my actors actually wanted to be together, they enjoy each other. But you do feel that responsibility that you need to get all of these people to give their best. For him it's in battle and for me it's when we're rolling. To really come up with their best stuff and play off each other as well as possible. And I have a great respect for the responsibility to service them with your camera at the same time. I definitely felt some of the pressure, but I can see out of my left eye.

CT: Did you have any particular combination of super heroes that you thought were the most interesting to see interact?

JW: The tragedy of the movie is that you don't get to have scenes of everybody interacting because everybody is so interesting up against each other. I would say I love the Bruce Banner, um, Tony Stark relationship. Bruce Banner's

Today's Puzzle: Crossword



Across

- 1. Entanglement
- 4. Fuss
- 7. Run easily
- 11. Hemispherical roof
- 12. Not up and about
- 13. Pertaining to hearing
- 15. Represents a conjunction
- 17. Literary genre
- 18. Make lacework by knotting or looping
- 19. Help
- 21. Domestic companion
- 22. Unspecified amount
- 23. Swarm
- 24. Decide with authority
- 27. For each
- 28. Me
- 30. Opaque gem
- 33. Root vegetable
- 36. Book of maps
- 38. Valley
- 39. Golfing term
- 40. This place
- 41. Part of a church
- 43. Pace
- 45. Region
- 46. Misapplication
- 48. Entire
- 50. Bill of fare
- 51. Land measure
- 53. Rotating mechanism
- 56. Metal-bearing mineral
- 58. Spearfish
- 60. Chromaticity
- 61. Binary compound
- 64. Tirade
- 66. Foe
- 67. Bind with rope, chain or cord
- 68. Leave out
- 69. Genuine
- 70. Middle of a storm
- 71. Fish trap

Down

- 1. Female
- 2. Vacuous
- 3. Insect
- 4. Humiliate
- 5. Coarse cotton fabric
- 6. Likelihood
- 7. Once around a course
- 8. Belonging to us
- 9. Mechanical device
- 10. Facilitate
- 11. Information
- 12. State categorically
- 14. Allow
- 16. Pace
- 20. Attempt
- 25. Country, initially
- 26. Deadly
- 27. Delight
- 28. To a greater extent
- 29. Taxi passenger
- 30. Eggs
- 31. Part of the hand
- 32. Measuring instrument
- 34. Recess
- 35. Rodent
- 37. Body of water
- 42. Operate
- 44. Outcast
- 47. Quantity of money
- 49. Give temporarily
- 51. Impressive display
- 52. Nearby
- 53. Percussion instrument
- 54. Inspection of accounting procedures
- 55. Encounter
- 56. Be indebted to
- 57. Rave
- 59. Fit
- 62. Flightless bird
- 63. Seed of the cereal grass
- 65. Male offspring

Zebda is the bread and butter of French music

CLEMENT LACROUTE
Staff Writer

They're back. You waited for them for the longest ten years ever, but they're finally back, just like they said they would be. It was not a split, just a very long hiatus.

Zebda released their first album in ten years, *Second Tour*, on January 23.

What the hell is Zebda?

It's Arab for butter, and butter, if written "beur", is French slang for Arab. The three founding members, Magyd, Mouss and Akim are French, and of Northern African descent. There's no reason you should have heard of them before if you never lived in France, but they had been leading the French alt/social/conscious scene for a long time during the 1990's and early 2000's, and there wasn't a

demonstration where you wouldn't hear their songs played.

Why should I review this album here? Well, let's say I want to take you on a "Tour de France" of French bands, starting down South. Zebda is from Toulouse, "la ville rose", the pink city, named as such for its pink brick walls. The band is both an icon of the city and of young, left-wing activism. They released a total of 5 studio albums, plus one live, and started gaining success with their second album *L'Arène des Rumeurs*, and the song "le bruit et l'odeur". It was both a humoristic and acute reaction to a speech by soon-to-be president Chirac. The song attacked racism up front, and became one of

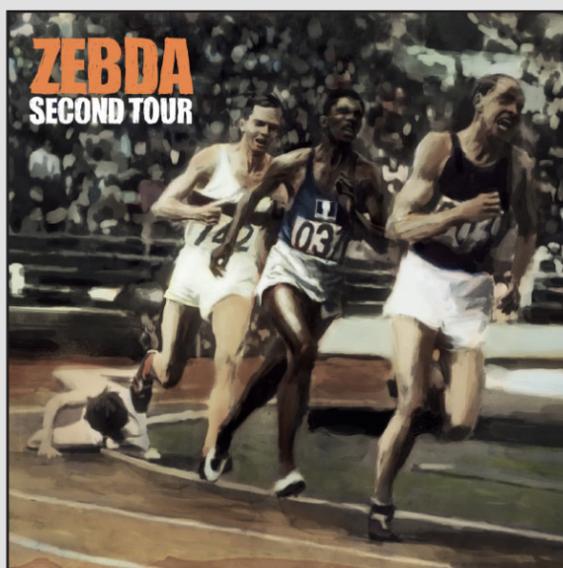
the first on the long list of Zebda's anthems. The following album, *Essence Ordinaire*, saw them find wider national success, with the #1 hit "Tomber la chemise", which brought them from the streets

into the night-clubs. This song demonstrates a vital part of what Zebda is: a band that knows how to take over a stage. Any stage.

Because these guys are unbelievable. If you are a physicist, wondering about from whence energy originates, go ask them—Zebda is a genuine nuclear plant. Each of their shows is a marvel, and the combined energy of the three singers and the band is highly communicative. They're not afraid to sweat it all out, they stage-dive just because it's fun (it is, you should try it), and they dance way better than any member of One Direction. This is part of the secret to Zebda's success: if you see them live once, you have to go again.

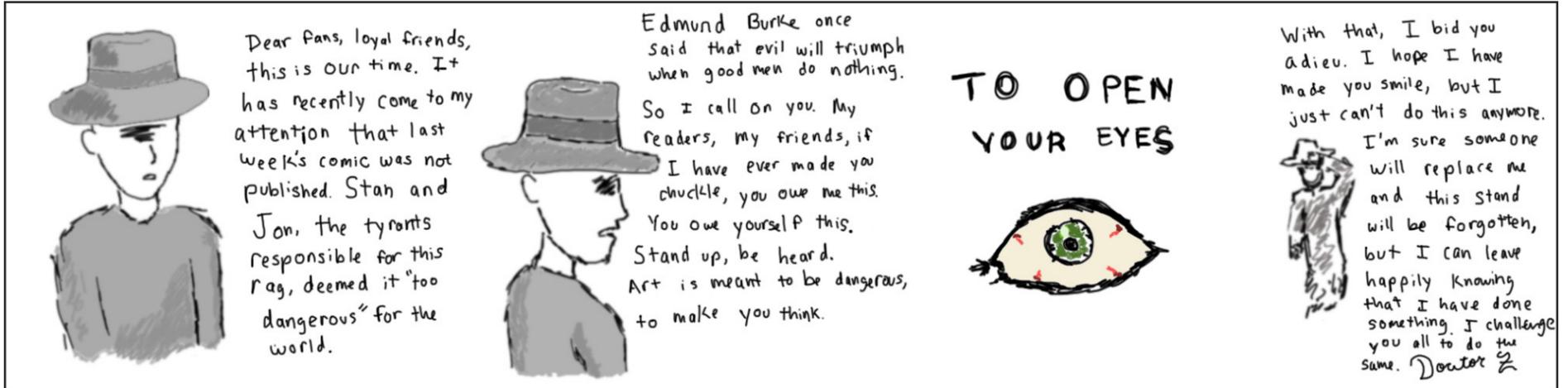
The other part is their lyricists' skills. They probably write the cleverest lyrics around, and they don't deal with easy topics, either. Their writing is inspired by the streets, the suburbs, and literature. The result is inspiring, funny, beautiful, and moving. Their music, tailored by the lyrics and the band's energy, ranges from rock to funk to pop, from funky groovy tunes to mellower ballads.

This continues to be the case with their newest album: songs address topics ranging from racism to religion, with the band's usual energy and humor. They have not lost their anger. They point out France's worst problems and best hopes on well-crafted songs supported by a talented band. There is very little chance that they will tour in America any time soon, but you can find their first albums on Spotify, iTunes, and Amazon.

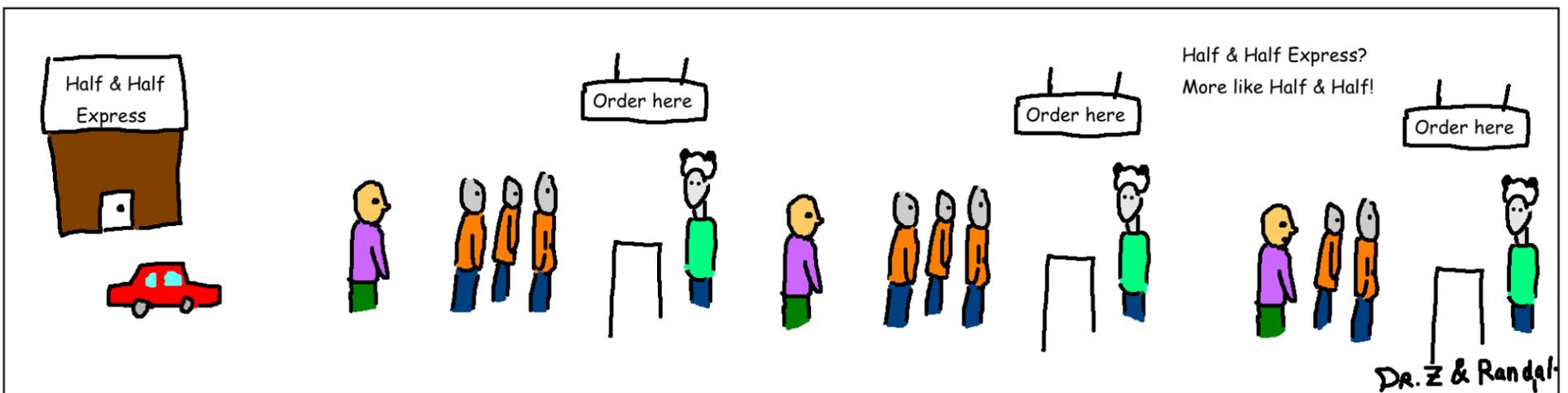


leparisien.fr

Acquired Taste



And here's the comic he's referring to:



For more photos, videos, and archives of previous issues, check out the Tech website!

tech.caltech.edu

The California
Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125