Introduction
In the fall of 1998, Dr. Christopher Brennen, Vice President for Student Affairs, charged a committee of student leaders, senior Student Affairs staff, and professors to examine ways that Caltech deals with incidents that require investigation and action on the part of the Board of Control and/or the Student Affairs staff (see table 1). The scope of COSGAA was restricted to issues involving undergraduate students. COSGAA met almost weekly until October of 1999, when a report which was a result of nearly a year of analysis and deliberation was submitted to Dr. Brennen. The following article serves to summarize that report and also to elicit feedback from the student body at large. COSGAA has already met with the BoC, the IIC, and other select students via focus groups and has incorporated their suggestions already. In this article, there will be many references to acronyms that may or may not be familiar to you.

The following is a guide:
- COSGAA - Committee On Student Government and Administrative Action (CoA)
- CRC - Conduct Review Committee
- RG - Routing Group
- BoC - Board of Control
- DRL - Director of Residence Life
- IHC - Interhouse Committee

Current System
Figure 1 is a flow chart diagram that represents how issues involving students are currently resolved. Initially a witness reports a case to one of the three major bodies that handles cases: Board of Control, Dean’s Office, Director of Residence Life/Office. Before continuing, it is important to note that the following is just a general guideline that COSGAA has pieced together in retrospect. Some cases were handled using the following rubric, and others were not.

If a case is reported to the Board of Control, then there are four possible outcomes:
1) The BoC decides that the case is not a clear Honor Code issue, and the incident occurred near or around the Houses. The DRL handles the case, which is not a clear Honor Code issue; however, they do not feel that they are well equipped to handle it. Thus it is referred to the Dean’s Office or the Director of Residence Life (DRL). (For example, a case involving a student who is mentally unstable)
2) The BoC decides that the case is a clear Honor Code issue, and the incident occurred away from the Houses. The Dean’s Office handles the case. (For example, an academic cheating case or a prank gone hay)
3) If a case is reported to an administrator, the Dean’s Office or the DRL, then there are 3 possible outcomes:
   a) The administrator decides that the case is not a clear Honor Code issue, and the incident occurred near or around the Houses. The DRL handles the case, which is not a clear Honor Code issue, and the case is routed and handled. Thus it is referred to another body. (For example, a Fire Policy violation in the SAC courtyard or a conflict between friends)
   b) The BoC decides that the case is not a clear Honor Code issue, but there is a need to refer to another body. (For example, a fairly serious Institute Policy violation)
   c) The BoC decides that the case is a clear Honor Code issue, and they choose to investigate it. (For example, an academic cheating case or a prank gone hay)

The current system finds a way to resolve each case; however, COSGAA has identified some problems in general with the routing and handling of those cases that are currently not handled by the BoC:
1) There are a fairly substantial number of cases that have little to no student input.
2) There are a fairly substantial number of cases that have input from only one or two administrators, which allows for a narrow viewpoint.
3) The task of determining whether a case is a clear Honor Code issue is left to the body to which it is referred.

Innovation possibilities boom with Web program

BY VIKRAM DENDU
I have been here for about a month now. A few weeks earlier, as I was walking back from a lab after being shocked by the sight of a strangely dressed person (the phenomenon was later explained to me as the infamous "Millikan man") I was attracted to a flyer on a wall that said "Beat MIT!". Well, it said something more than that, but that was the part that got my attention. So, I paid some attention and a few days later landed in a course that to my surprise isn’t really known to many undergraduate students even now. But before we go into the details of this very interesting course, some background:
At first the web was a nerdy DARPA project that linked a bunch of researchers together. Then the public got a hold of it and we got — hype and pictures of Bill Clinton’s car. Well the web has improved since the early 90’s. Now the web will help you buy a computer, buy a book about a computer, or get directions to the nearest computer store. What more could a nerd want? Quite a lot actually. The web is supposed to make information readily available to a wide variety of people - even people separated by time and space. Some large organizations have managed to put quite a bit of information on line - and even make it possible to search through all that verbage to find the few pieces of it that are of interest to you. That’s fantastic - the Encyclopedia Brittanica and the entire archives of Science magazine without having to build new bookshelves in your dorm room. But is it enough? What if you don’t find everything you need there? What if you know that some of that information is out of date - or just plain wrong?
Is it possible to get more than just the information the webmaster had when the site when up? Is it if the site supports interaction. Everyone has used Amazon.com so let’s use them to give you a taste of what I am talking about. They have a large staff that puts up pages for all the new books they get into stock - dust jacket picture, basic info, cover blur, for a big seller maybe a review. But they don’t stop at that? No, they actually solicit reader comments on the book. For a popular or controversial book, they may have an extensive list of reader opinions, almost like an online book group.
Reading the comments at Amazon gives you a flavor for some things that are possible on the web. But what if you push this idea of interactivity further - to its logical conclusion, an online community? Online communities have existed since the inception of email lists and Usenet, but how do these translate into the new medium of the web? With this new medium can you do more? Or do the same thing better? How to build sustainable online communities was the subject that interested ArsDigita founder Philip Greenspun when he started building his personal website.
WEB:
Learn online management skills, beat MIT

Continued from page 1

This term's class is full but if you are interested in teaching yourself to build database-backed web sites, the course materials are available online. The "Home Study" section of http://arsdigita.com/jobs.html outlines what you need to do to set up your own system and contains links to the relevant teaching materials.

Questions? Comments?
Direct them to: aure@caltech.edu or cnk@u-gcs.caltech.edu

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photo.net several years ago. His MIT thesis - chronling what he had learned building and maintaining this (and other sites) - turned into a humorously insightful book, Philip and Alex's Guide to Web Publishing.

Some of the issues that Philip struggled with sounded familiar to Aare Prochaska, a Caltech alumus who has been designing and building cutting edge web sites ever since he got the first one up on his home pages in 1994. Aare decided he liked some of the approaches Philip and ArsDigita were taking and founded ArsDigita's Los Angeles (Pasadena) office about a year ago. High on his list of current projects is teaching "Software Engineering for Web Applications", a full-term course offered in conjunction with Caltech's Technology Learning Center. This course teaches students how to design and build interactive web sites using the ArsDigita toolkit.

The course consists of a series of projects that set to teach the tools used to build the ArsDigita Community System (ACS): the Oracle relational database, AOLServer and its TCL programming interface.

The problem sets also begin to introduce the students to portions of the ACS - showing them how to leverage code built for different ArsDigita clients and incorporated into the company's open-source toolkit. ArsDigita's emphasis is on using fundamentally sound design and coding principles to build easily customizable modules that can be adapted to serve the needs of a variety of community sites. These modules are distributed from ArsDigita's web site to anyone who would like to use these tools as the starting point for their own community sites.

The second half of the course will be spent on a project - building a database backed website using the concepts learned in the first part of the term. Teams of students will choose a problem that interests them, for example building an online version of the Technoscope. With guidance from the TAs they will decide what kind of interactivity will best serve the project, and design and build the site. The best of these projects will compete with similar projects coming out of the MIT version of this course. ArsDigita (http://arsdigita.org) was the best site to come out of last spring's MIT course.

Coming back to my point, it is now Caltech's turn to realize the significance of such a course in today's increasingly web dependent world. It will be pertinent to make this class more available to the undergraduate student community by giving it for credit. MIT has been offering this course for credit for a while now. In an impromptu survey I did among a handful of undergraduate students about ninety percent felt that they would definitely want to take the course if it was offered for credit. The ever burgeoning load of classes will not let the average Tech undergraduate want to take this course when offered for no credit, even though he or she might learn a lot from it.

This article was written by Tech staff writer Vikram R. Dendi, in collaboration with (and with much help from) Cynthia Kiser.

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by Kenneth Kuo

The Y is responsible for coordinating community service projects and various student activities. During this past weekend, an example of both occurred. On Saturday, we had our first Beach Clean-up session at Venice Beach. The event, as can be expected, was great fun to both the student and the Y-hosted community service projects.

Baldy traversing an 8.4 mile long trail. Another Y program of note is that we also organize tutoring sessions for High School and Middle School students in the Pasadena Unified School District. If you have Federal Work Study, you can receive $12 per hour. Unfortunately, freshmen cannot work until their 2nd term. To keep track of this, you can receive a monthly email from Ying Tian at Ying.tian@cco.caltech.edu.

This week, we host Ayn Rand on Thursday, October 28 at Tommy's and a large amount of study time. Tommy's Run (Freshmen, if you don't know what this is, ask an upperclassman or find a copy of the schedule. It's $5). Students who want to get involved. Bring your books and tell your friends and your YAOUNDE, CAMEROON: American President Robert Kocharian declared a day of mourning today, in memory of the nation's prime minister and seven others killed in Parliament by terrorist gunmen. The terrorists have been promised a fair trial, not yet scheduled, which could result in a ten to fifteen year sentence, or death.

YEREVAN, ARMENIA: Armenian President Robert Kocharian declared a day of mourning today, in memory of the nation's prime minister and seven others killed in Parliament by terrorist gunmen. The terrorists have been promised a fair trial, not yet scheduled, which could result in a ten to fifteen year sentence, or death.

SANA', YEMEN: American teacher of Yemeni studies Marta Collburn and her visiting parents were freed from captivity by kidnappers after intense negotiations for their freedom by Yemeni authorities. The kidnappers had apparently demanded the release of 25 fellow tribesmen detained in connection with the oil pipeline explosion. Though Collburn and her parents were released unharmed, it is unknown whether the kidnappers' demands were met.

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Despite efforts by Musonge and others in the Cameroonian government to crack down on corruption, the people of Cameroon still readily admit to massive corruption in their leaders.

In a Library of Congress survey, Atlas Shrugged was named second only to the Bible as the book that has been most influential in people's lives.

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Be prepared to check every premise at the root of your convictions. Atlas Shrugged is a mystery story, not about the murder of a man's body, but about the murder— and rebirth— of a man's spirit. The novel dramatizes a philosophical revolution in the form of an action thriller. Impossible? Start checking your premises.

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Already read Atlas Shrugged?

If you think you might be interested in participating in a campus Objectivist club, contact campus club advisor Stewart Margolis, at stewartm@aynrand.org, or at 1-800-365-5552, ext. 210.
You Might Want to Read the Disclaimer First
by Jason Meltzer

Ever get the feeling that the universe hates you? That there's some all-powerful being watching over your life, and that he just loves to make you miserable? That when you're not looking, an ugly demon from Hell is rearranging space and time, just to get on your nerves? Guess what: there is. The universe does really hate you. Life is, at best, some heaven on the other side, and if I were an ugly demon from Hell I'd have my quality of one's body, but my friends are necessary for maintaining things, anyway. It is in this mind-set that I am writing this column, and everyone who's anything besides a Techer (who's accompanied by a Techer with ID) out of the whole room. Even a math major is forever purchased a particular piece of software from uBid (another auction site), and resold it on eBay! There are actually products available for auction there that sell for more than their retail value! Don't you just love the Internet?

All this thinking about the nastiness and decay of the world makes me want to just give up on it sometimes. Steal a few million dollars and move to some secluded desert island where nobody (except, of course, my gorgeous island-mate) could possibly bother me. Bring a bunch of books, and an Internet connection, of course, and just do nothing. Forget college, grad school, working — just bum on a deserted beach. But then I realize that if I do that, I'll never be able to take over the world with an army of evil robots. So I go back to doing my problem sets.

For those of you who actually finished reading this column, I commend you: you have more stamina than I could hope to. Or maybe you're just really bored. Either way, next time I promise to write something a bit more pertinent to life a Caltech.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The possible outcomes of a decision of the CRC are similar to those normally exercised by Student Affairs. The Routing Group (RG) is composed of the Dean, the DRL, the BoC Chair, and the Student Co-Chair of the CRC. The RG provides a centralized mechanism for the consistent routing of cases and facilitates communication between the different bodies that handle cases. Figure 2 depicts a flow chart diagram that represents how issues involving students would be resolved. Initially a witness would report a case to one of the four major bodies that handles cases: BoC, CRC, Dean's Office, DRL. That body will then communicate the details to the other members of the Routing Group for discussion and assignment of the case. Routing decisions will be made by consensus; if a consensus is not attainable, then the decision will be made by majority rule. Certain exceptions and exemptions of how cases would be routed are enumerated in Table 2. The operation of the BoC will not change much at all. Essentially only those cases that are not handled by the BoC will be handled differently. Thus, the CRC will handle a bulk of the cases that the Dean's Office and DRL currently handle. When the BoC, CRC, or an individual administrator resolves a case, the RG will be apprised of the outcomes. This feedback is used only for the purpose of helping refine routing decisions in the future. The Conduct Review Committee's general philosophy is in the spirit of the Honor Code; its formal procedures are modeled after those of the Board of Control. However, there are three major differences between the operation of the CRC and the BoC:

1) A concise statement of the CRC's charge will be: "The Conduct Review Committee will seek to make decisions in the best interest of the entire Caltech community."
2) The CRC will have to handle cases that involve many students and more general problems that affect the community. As a result the CRC may, at times, be forced to operate more publicly than the BoC and therefore it will be difficult to come to a decision in total secrecy. Thus, the committee is given the power to sit aside, on occasion, normally strictly confidentiality standards.
3) The BoC, the CRC, the Dean's Office, and the DRL will also have access to each other's records when handling cases. The difference between the CRC procedures and BoC procedures is that the BoC takes a defendant's prior convictions into consideration only after they have established that there has been an Honor Code violation. Records of the BoC, the Dean's Office, and the DRL will be taken into consideration during the decision making process, and may have an impact on the committee's decision.

The proposal addresses the concerns raised before:
1) Many more cases will have student input from either the BoC or the CRC.
2) Many more cases will be handled by committees rather than by an individual administrator.
3) The task of determining what is a proper Honor Code violation and what is not is left to the Routing Group.
4) Cases are routed by content rather than geography. Two similar cases regardless of where they physically occurred will be dealt with by the same body. This will lead to more consistent resolution of similar cases.

There will be much more communication between the different bodies that handle cases. Therefore, it is unlikely that a student with a pattern of disruptive behavior will slip through the cracks.

**Figure 1. Current System of Administrative Action**

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The CRC is better equipped than the BoC to handle cases that:

a. are widely public.
b. have no clear defendant.
c. are not clear Honor Code issues, but are a Student Code issue.

d. evolve and become more comfortable with the workings of the CRC.
e. perhaps allow faculty and/or administrative staff as a resource for such cases.

The committee does not feel that the group of Control (note: no change until ASCIT Bylaw change) be trained to be able to handle the more sensitive cases.

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**Men’s fencer Corydon season finale) Cook was 21st and Abraham Kuo place. In men’s foil, Huang again Sowinski ruled.**

**Caltech Tuttle finshed in fourth place Prado Park, taking a fifth-place nod and Zhao Huang and women’s sabre competition, Kacie took honors with Nathan Stein's match (Oct. 26) against Life Bible. Karen Lam added six digs and three kills in the loss. The Beavers close the season with either team. Karen Lam added six digs and three kills in the loss. The Beavers close the season with Tuesday’s match (Oct. 26) against Life Bible. This Week: Tue., Oct. 26, vs. Life Bible (Braun Center, Caltech, Calif., 7:30 p.m.)

**Soccer**

**Last Week in Review**

**Men’s and Women’s Cross Country**

This Week: Sat., Oct. 30, at SCIAC Championships (9 a.m., Psado Park, Chino, Calif.)

**Men’s and Women’s Fencing**

This Week: The Beavers opened the season hosting a tournament in Brown Gym last Saturday. In the combined men’s and women’s sabre competition, Corydon Loomis won medalist honors with Nathan Stein earning a fifth-place nod and Zhao Huang taking seventh. In men’s epee, Eric Tuttle finished in fourth place while teammate Anthony Sowinski finished in seventh place. In men’s foil, Huang again finished seventh while Joseph Cook was 21st and Abraham Kuo took 23rd place. In women’s foil, Sara Quan finished in seventh place while women’s epee, Katie Shetton took fifth place.

Next Week: No events scheduled.

Next Up: Sat., Nov. 7, vs. UC-Santa Barbara (Brown Gym, 10 a.m.)

**Men’s Soccer**

(1-2-1, 1-8 SCIAC)

Head Coach: Julie Levesque Last Week: Claremont-Mudd-Scripps 6, Caltech 1 . Occidental 5, Caltech 0. Senior Dale Parkes

**Fighting Canvas**

(9-8, 1-2 SCIAC)

Head Coach: Clint Purcell Last Week: La Verne 18, Caltech 0 .

**Water Polo** (0-7, 0-2 SCIAC)

Head Coach: Clint Purcell Last Week: La Verne 18, Caltech 8 .

**Sports Week in Review**

by Chris Hughes

**Caltech Athlete of the Week**

Corydon Loomis, Men’s Fencing - Men’s fencer Corydon Loomis won the sabre competition at last weekend’s season-opening tournament, held in Brown Gym. Loomis, last year’s Caltech Co-Most Outstanding Player, defeated 14 other fencers from Cal State Fullerton, UC San Diego, UCLA and USC.

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There are childish things that please even in adulthood. I must confess, at the risk of seeming downright retarded rather than just childish, that I take an intense pleasure at turning on the radio in my car. Part of it is because the motorized antenna extends when I pull the "on" button. Part of it is that I love the sound, it envelops me so, I feel that I am in the best seat of a fabled concert hall. I can listen to Telemann and Palestrina, Mozart and Tchaikowski and Orff's Camina Burana, almost anytime. I say almost because of course I am at the whim of the DJ. Yes I could use the tape player or even install a CD player and have whatever music, whenever I chose. Actually I am content with chance selections. It adds to the spice, not to know what will come my way. Rather peculiar to say, in this city of traffic jams, I sometimes wish I could hear the pieces that are played in their entirety. And to think there was a time when only the "upper crust" and maybe the faithful could enjoy such music. Upper crust I am unlikely to have been, but I think I might have become a church goer, just to experience Bach, had I lived 300 hundred years ago.

Although today we take music—at any-time for granted, if one goes back little more than a hundred years there was only live music. "Mary had a little lamb", the song that launched the industry, was first recorded and played back on November 20, 1887 (www.si.edu/lemelson/centerpieces/livestes/edison.html). With Edison's first machines one did not feel that one was in a concert hall. Fidelity has much improved since then. The recording medium has gone from foil covered wax to wax, to Bakelite platters running at 78 rpm, to vinyl discs spinning at 33 or 45rpm, and in parallel from steel wire to fancy tape, using steel needles, wooden points, then sapphire and diamond styl. Of course by now it is done digitally with beams and mirrors. At each step of the evolution of recording there was much ado and expectation about the coming "perfect" medium. Yet the only truly superior recording must have been John Cage's piece "Four Minutes and Thirty Three Seconds". It consists of 273 seconds of silence, the absolute zero noise performance.

Music has long been one of the most moving way for humans to express themselves. It presumably arose at the dawn of mankind, but references to music and musical instruments are lacking, along with data on the emergence of humans. But if birds and whales can do it, why not even the earliest of humans could enjoy such music. And to think there was a time when only live music, March 55, we can read of "How Pantagruel, being at sea, hear(s) various unfrozen words." What? Quick frozen like fish? It turns out, the captain of Pantagruel's boat explains, that, yes, their boat was now "on the confines of the Frozen Sea, on which, about the beginning of last winter, happened a great and bloody fight, the words and cries of men and women the hacking, slashing and hewing of battle axes, the shocking knocking and jolting of armors and harnesses, the neighing of horses and all other martial din and noise, froze in the air; and now, the rigor of the winter being over, by the succeeding serenity and warmth of the weather, they melt and are heard" (www.worldwideschool.org/lit/prryr.html; translated by Thomas Urquhart and Peter Motteux from nearly incomprehensible XVth Century French), "Here...here are some that are not yet thawed. He then threw...on the deck whole handfuls of frozen words - of many colors!" Ah but that's only one tall tale related by Rabelais, that rattle rouser (sic). Of course there are no unfrozen words. We don't know when music originated, but it seems that 3400 year old clay tablets from the Syr ian city of Urarti (the modern Ras Shamra) represent a song and matching musical notation, according to work by Prof. Kilmer and colleagues at Cal. There is also much older, if indirect, evidence for music. In 1997 in Lubiana, Dr. Ivan Turk a paleontologist from the Slovenian Academy of Sciences, discovered a 43,000 yr. old bear femur with two complete and two partial holes, the remains of what might have been a Neanderthal flute. Because it is missing both ends it can't be played. Not so for a 9000 year old flute from China discovered by Zhang and colleagues, as reported in the Sept 23 issue of Nature (Vol. 401, pp366-368, 1999). One of several found in a tomb, it had 7 holes. An extra hole had been drilled next to # 7 presumably to correct the pitch of the instrument. Since there was no music to go along with the flutes, it was tried out using instead an old Chinese folk tune "My little Cabbage". You can hear it yourself on the web! (url: nature.com). To my western ear the "unfrozen sounds" are more like someone trying to whistle than playing the flute, but it is nevertheless moving to hear sounds which we last made some 9 millennia ago. It would have unrealistic, in fact childish, to expect a Mozart Flute concerto! And so, bredelinbrededack, frr, frr, bou, bou!
The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group invites you to attend this year's event. The group will meet in the Health Center lounge from 4:00 p.m. until 10:15 p.m. on October 29, 1999. The event will be open to students of all sexual orientations. For more information, call x8331.

The Human Resources, Employee Services office will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, Nov. 11, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Winnett Lounge. For an appointment please contact Diana at ext. 6001 or by email at diana@apc.caltech.edu. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Earthquake Preparedness Training will be offered by the Pasadena Fire Dept. through the Safety Office. Training will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon in the Baxter Lecture Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 16. Learn what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. The session is limited to the first 100 people who sign up. For reservations call Caprice Anderson at 626-395-6727.

Work for the TECH! Dave needs you! Yes, you!

Free mid-term ballroom dance party with refreshments, 8 p.m. until midnight Sat., Nov. 6 in Avery; sponsored by the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club. At 8:30 p.m. there will be an introductory East Coast Swing lesson with open dancing starting at 9 p.m. No partners are required. For last minute changes see www.caltech.edu/~ballroom or call 626-791-3103.

Dr. Jean Kirkpatrick, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations will speak Nov. 3, 8 p.m. at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 E. Green St., Pasadena, CA 91101, for tickets call ticketmasters at 213-480-3232.

Pasadena Community Orchestral October Concert, Fri., Oct. 29, 8 p.m. at the First Church of the Nazarene, 3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd, Call 626-445-6708 for information.

Lifescape: Exploring and Celebrating the New Longevity presented by the UCLA Center on Aging and Skirball Cultural Center, Nov. 4, 1:00-2:30 p.m., $5.00, call 310-440-4500 for information.

The "Fans of X-Rated Enter-
tainment Awards" Sun., Oct. 31, 7:00 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Universal City Hilton, call 818-734-9898 or visit www.erotica-la.com for information.

The Los Angeles Public Li-
brary presents "What is Africa's Legacy" by Henry Louis Gates Jr., the W.E.B. DuBois Professor of Humanities at Harvard University, Tue., Nov. 2, 7 p.m., reservations by mail are preferred, call 213-228-7025 for more information.

The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group is extending invitations to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group. For more information, call x8331.

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