Grad student Teresa Hsu commits suicide

First-year Chemistry graduate student found dead in Catalina apartment complex

Graduate student Teresa Hsu was found dead in her Catalina apartment Wednesday morning. Hsu was a first year graduate student in the chemistry department, and a member of the Dougherty research group and a teaching assistant for Organic Chemistry (Ch 41). She was 22.

The body was discovered around 9:30 a.m., when a member of the housekeeping staff entered the apartment. The staff member discovered the body with a note reading “cyanide” and immediately reported it. Apparently, Hsu had taken her own life.

According to Kevin LaPresle of the Pasadena Fire Department, emergency personnel evacuated the apartment complex and closed portions of Catalina Avenue and Wilson Boulevard under the suspicion that cyanide gas was involved. Several Caltech employees who had entered the room in response to the initial report were examined by paramedics and released.

A hazardous materials team was called to the site, and determined that granular potassium cyanide had been added to a cup of coffee. The source of the compound has not been determined, and the apartment showed no signs of foul play.

Caltech held a short press conference on Wednesday afternoon, relaxing the incident to the local news media. Dr. Chris Brennen expressed shock and sorrow at the incident. He said that Hsu was "a bright young woman with great promise as a scientist."

Yesterday, members of the Chemistry Department met to share their thoughts on the loss, and discuss the support network currently in place for graduate students.

Authorities urge others to allow time for family and friends.

Caltech Mars Society sends plan to NASA

Forget the new Star Wars ambitious project by undergraduates of the Caltech’s chapter of the Mars Society could be bringing an epic space saga to a solar system near you.

“This could be the plan to send the first humans to Mars,” says Caltech sophomore Chris Hirata, who, along with three other Caltech undergrads and the support of Caltech’s 80 member chapter of the Mars Society, has developed a new plan that would land the first humans on Mars on May 25, 2014.

“On May 25th? Don’t you mean by May 25th?” asks Kara Swedlow, a senior who was treated to an early version of the plan. But Chris makes it clear: "On May 25th. We calculated the trajectory exactly.” The Caltech Mars Society team calculated a lot of things exactly — from parachutes and retro-rockets for landing on Mars to the chances-good, it turns out-of returning the crew safely.

The team of undergrads, which also includes Jane Greenham, Derek Shannon, and Nathan Brown, all freshmen, will present their plan, Mars Society Mission, to NASA’s top thinkers on human Mars exploration at the Mars Exploration Forum May 7th at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston.

The Mars Society Mission is part of the Mars Society’s political and technical efforts to make a human Mars mission a reality. “And having the safest, most reasonable plan possible is a big part of that,” explains chapter president Derek Shannon. An inexpensive propulsion technology, says Shannon, could mean success for a new humans-to-Mars initiative in the next year or two. Continues Derek, “Based on cost estimates for earlier plans that the Mars Society Mission improves upon, we could send humans to Mars using just a fraction of NASA’s budget over the next ten years,” for a total cost between $30 to $50 billion dollars, less than the current cost of the International Space Station and less than the inflation-adjusted cost of the Apollo missions to the Moon.

Team member Nathan “Goober” Brown, who designed the Mars Ascent Vehicle that will bring the five-person Mars Society Mission crew back from the Martian surface, explains the need for a new plan. According to Goober, two leading plans have previously been the focus of debate lightweight, four-person Mars Direct, created by aerospace engineer and national Mars Society leader Dr. Robert Zubrin, and the bulkier, six-person NASA Reference Mission, developed by NASA’s Mars Study Team. Says Goober, “the Mars Society Mission fixes the problems with these plans by avoiding over-optimistic assumptions.”
MARS SOCIETY LAUNCH PLAN TAKES OFF WITH NASA

The Earth Return Vehicle is folowed by a Mars Ascent Vehicle, which can take the mission back to Earth. The launch is scheduled for June 25, 1999, the fiftieth anniversary of the first manned moon landing. The launch vehicle will use a new type of rocket engine, which is being developed by the United Space Alliance. The rocket will be launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida. The launch window will be open from June 23 to June 28, 1999.

The Mars Society Mission uses more complex back-up systems on the Earth Return Vehicle to ensure that the crew can make the safety of the mission more of a sure thing. Shannon clarified, saying, "The Mars Society Mission uses more complex back-up systems on the Earth Return Vehicle to ensure that the crew can make the safety of the mission more of a sure thing."
Student-Faculty committees open for membership

If you've ever dreamed of power beyond mere mortal comprehension, sign up now!

BY CATHLYN GIFFORD

The sign-ups for the Faculty-Student Committees will end on Thursday, May 13 at 5pm. To sign up, write your format on the door of SAC 33 and refer to www.ocgcs.caltech.edu/isc. If you have any other questions talk to your house president or email cathy@eco.

Policies and Curriculum

All changes to Caltech's undergraduate academic policies and curriculum are addressed by this committee, including uniting, grades vs pass/fail, course descriptions and numbering, option requirements, procedures for obtaining double majors, and other changes to the catalog. Some core curriculum changes are discussed, but these do not make up the majority of its work. The committee also considers student petitions; independently designed options, double options, fifth years, second bachelor's degrees, and requests for outside credit. Notable recent decisions include a change in the double-option requirements, the approval of an undergraduate minor, and the addition of the ECE option. The time commitment is an hour long meeting every few weeks.

Educational Outreach

This committee brings together diverse campus resources emphasizing the importance of educational outreach into the surrounding community. The committee oversees the YESS program, works with the minority recruitment and retention office, brings speakers to campus, and organizes and publicizes various outreach opportunities for members of the Caltech community. The bulk of the work done by this committee happens third term.

Frosh Admissions

This committee decides which applications will be admitted to Caltech for both early and regular decision and awards freshman scholarships. Applications are first read and commented on by admissions officers, faculty and students. Then, small groups of readers meet to decide which applications are accepted, denied, and wait-listed. This process occurs during first term for early decisions and is repeated second term for regular action. The time commitment for this committee is crucial since the more time the students devote the more opinions are recognized. Application readings can take anywhere from 2 to 8 hours a week for the last half of both first and second term. Early action group meetings occur during finals week first term and total 8 to 12 hours. Regular decision group meetings occur during finals week second term and can take up to 30 hours total. Students who apply for this committee must be able to guarantee both first and second term involvement.

Grievance

This committee includes faculty, grad students, and undergraduates. Other than grievances any kind having to do with Caltech. The committee is convened by the Vice President for Student Affairs to deal with individual cases. It has not met in eight years.

Institute Programs

This committee decides on speakers or performers for all educational, entertainment, and cultural programs sponsored by the Institute, such as the Watson Lecture series and OPE events. The student members make suggestions for speakers or performers, and participates in the committee's discussions. The time commitment is 6 hours a term at most.

Scholarship and Financial Aid

This committee proposes changes to the amount charged for tuition, and minimum student contribution as well as assigning Upperclass Merit Awards. The bulk of this committee's work, reviewing merit award applications, is done during mid-term weeks in third term.

UASH

This committee makes decisions on all UASH petitions, including reinstatements, late drops and adds, extra terms, etc. Also, it chooses recipients for three awards. The student members participate in the selection and voting. The time commitment is one full day meeting on the first day of each term in addition to one of two one-hour meetings per term.

Upperclass Admissions

This committee is in charge of transfer and 3-2 admissions. This committee meets at the end of third term. Since the current committee members have not met, the IHC will not appoint new students to this committee this year.

Faculty Advisor Committee

These students work autonomously with the Deans and the Moosh to help the Faculty Advisor System work smoothly and improve knowledge and communication between the registrar, the advisors and the students. There will be a pilot Student Advisor Committee as well.
I feel dirty after my last Innerspace. Dirty? You may wonder why. It was a nice little article for the Prefrosh about college and why one should choose or choose not to attend Caltech. Why should I feel bad about writing such a thing? We'll come to that later.

As I stated in my Prefrosh column, Caltech is a difficult school to attend. Students here do a great deal of work, more than those at most other universities, even other first rate institutions. By extension, we have less free time because we're often doing work. We also have a small campus, small student body, and no big "college town" atmosphere. All of this can occasionally give students the feeling of confinement — that we're being somehow deprived of the easy and fun lifestyles that we think other college students have. This may be an illusion, but many students apparently think it's true, which is what's important for this article.

Lately I have observed that people here, including myself, have become more and more upset with this place. Maybe it's just spring fever, maybe it's just my group of friends, or maybe it's just the prism through which I currently see the world, but it is a notable observation nonetheless. All of my friends complain that they're tired, they have too much work, there's nothing fun to do, and all sorts of other woes. We slave away at our assignments, even on weekends and into the night (though for many night is prime-time). I'd like to go to the beach tomorrow, but I probably should write code, and everyone I know needs to work, too. So instead of California sun and surf, I get fluorescent lights and a computer screen. Just a bit depressing.

Most creatures on this Earth have the natural instinct to get away from any situation that makes them uncomfortable, as it may threaten their survival. We humans, however, can override this instinct with our reason: we can decide that there really is no danger and force ourselves through any number of difficulties. Caltech students, seemingly, have a particularly high threshold for struggling through such situations. Every day we go through self-imposed mental trauma. Whether it be rushing to finish assignments, or studying for tests, or simply being exposed to courses and people that make us feel inferior. My question is: why? Why do we do these things to ourselves?

The obvious (and feel-good) answer is that we are people who place such a high value upon learning that we will sacrifice many other aspects of life in the pursuit of knowledge. How noble. How naive. No, my philosophy does not allow for such ridiculousness (well, I'm sure that there are some people who can claim such nobility, but I don't think many). There must be other reasons. Perhaps it's for the degree, or the networking, or the future benefits. That sounds reasonable, but I don't know who would think that's worth it do we think any. But Caltech students are, at heart, masochists. We like the pain of saving away at assignments and being beaten down by our classes. We like to have our egos dashed and our intelligence challenged. Why else would we put up with it?

Caltech, the ingenious entity it is, feeds this tendency of its students, perhaps even selects for it. I am reminded of a quote from Dune, a book I am currently reading. It deals with the Sardaukar, the "soldier-fanatics" of the Padishah Emperor, who are bred on a hell-planet to make them fierce warriors. Leto Atreides explains to his son how such men can be useful and loyal: "There are proven ways: play on the certain knowledge of their superiority, the mystique of secret covert operations, a spirit of shared suffering. It can be done. It has been done on many worlds in many times." This made me think of Caltech - we endure suffering, feel a sense of camaraderie and elitism, and ultimately develop pride. We complain about our problems and how we often hate Caltech, yet we stay. Further, we encourage others to join us as well! We are the Sardaukar of being hated, but, unlike them, we chose our fates. We go through the hell of Caltech, complaining all the while, but stay, recruit others, and finally donate money when we leave!

This brings me back to my own introduction of a Prefrosh weekend. Caltech suddenly becomes a friendly, happy place. Work isn't too bad, the weather becomes beautiful (more support for my theory that Caltech controls the weather), and we undergrads tell the Prefrosh about the wonders of Caltech. I unconsciously participated in these festivities, and now realize my fault. So I feel that I have sinned in writing my Prefrosh column, and now I have repented!

Should we change our name to Cultech? Think about it.

**ATTENTION: SENIORS**

**Dinner with the MOSH**

If you have never been to Dinner with the MOSH at Steele House and would like to go before you graduate, sign up ASAP in the Residence Life Office. If you have been to a Dinner with the MOSH and would like to go one st time, you too can sign up. The dinner will be held on Tuesday May 11, or Tuesday, May 18.
This One's a Keeper
Mizu-Zushi 546 S. Lake Ave. Pasadena

BY KEVIN SCALDEPEDI

Mizu-Zushi has bravely stepped into the seemingly-cursed location across the street from Burger Continental. I believe they are the fourth restaurant to occupy this space during the two years I have been in Pasadena. However, unlike previous tenants, Mizu-Zushi was completely packed during the lunch hour.

The decor of the restaurant is quiet and traditional, shielded by Japanese shades from the bustle of Lake Avenue. The sushi chefs are friendly and greet you enthusiastically when you arrive at the bar, and they don't complain if not everyone is eating sushi. A small bowl of marinated juliened octopus, which I found to be better than ginger for clearing your palate, quickly appears at each place setting. The fish is uniformly very fresh and flavorful and the pieces are generously sized.

Tuna cut from a glinting, intensely red slab is beautiful and tasty, but even better is the fatty tuna which literally melts in your mouth. Unfortunately, it's also substantially more expensive. The fresh water eel is fantastic; slightly crisped without being crunchy and with a delicate sauce that really lets the taste of the eel stand out. Salmon and yellowtail are two more staples of sushi, and they too do not disappoint. The yellowtail, in particular, has a wonderful texture. Salmon roe is fresh and plump, although I find eating the fish is uniformly very fishine that usually plagues mackerel. This is the best I've had with none of the oily mackerel, this is the best I've had with none of the oily fishiness that usually plagues mackerel.

I think Mizu-Zushi has what it takes to break the curse of their location. I certainly hope they do as I look forward to returning frequently in the future.

FEATURES

The Outside World
by Cheryl Forest

Kosovo Crisis: Staff Sgt. Andrew Ramirez, Staff Sgt. Christopher Stone and Spec. Steven Gonzales were released this past Sunday after being prisoners of war for the past month. Also, Russia and the major Western powers set aside their differences over NATO airstrikes Thursday and drafted a joint plan to end the Kosovan conflict, including the deployment of an international peacekeeping force.

Southern Plains States: Deadly tornadoes ripped across parts of Kansas and Oklahoma this past Monday, and continued through to Tennessee Wednesday and Thursday. There are 51 confirmed fatalities from this particular storm system, including 41 from Oklahoma; 54 people are still missing.

Moron, Comoros: The new military leader of the Comoros said his junta will be in power for a year and will include civilian politicians, although not those associated with "the old guard." Calm was reported on all three islands Saturday following the bloodless coup, the fourth to succeed since Comoros gained independence from France in 1975.

Mount Everest: Mountain climbers ascending Mount Everest's north ridge reported that they found the frozen body of legendary mountain climber George Mallory, who disappeared on the peak in 1924. Some historian speculate that he and a partner were the first to reach Everest's summit. nearly 30 years before the successful ascent of Sir Edmund Hillary and his Nepalese partner Tenzing Norgay in 1953.

Jerusalem, Israel: Nine centuries after Christian Europe sought to redeem the Holy Land, a group of Western Christians is seeking forgiveness for the slaughter and destruction left in the Crusaders' wake. Holding printed apologies in Arabic, Hebrew and English, the participants in the "Reconciliation March" said Sunday they planned to hand the fliers to Jews, Muslims, and Eastern Christians whose forefathers were killed during the invasion.
I have, this winter, been to a better end before fence.

It makes starting right to understand, that's why.

When I do that, I work.

I'm talking about David and his need to throw English up in his beard.

...It is your blessedness.

This is our most reliable computer, unless you try to use software.

This is how I got to be the man I am today.

I put a nail in her shoe, which ought as long as I can remember.

I put a nail in her shoe, which ought as long as I can remember.

No, I don't mean that. You think it's true.

I'm hearing from a friend.

I invented an antigravity belt, but it's still on.

I thought it was the right thing to do.

No, I don't mean that. You think it's true.

I'm hearing from a friend.

I put a nail in her shoe, which ought as long as I can remember.

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I hope everyone that came to Mini Decompression had a good time. I know some people are confused about why Mini Decompression is so much smaller than Decompression. Decompression is the Y's big event every term and is both a lot of work and money. Mini Decompression has a similar purpose to Decompression, to help students relax during test season, but its not meant to feed you a full meal. But we have found a great demand for more food so we will try to bring you more food. If you have suggestions on what you would like to see at Mini Decompression, you can email Elisa at polaris@cco.edu.

If we did get dimer type food, what would you want to eat? Subway sandwiches, pizza, chinese, hamburgers, bagels? Remember that we do have a limited budget and that the Y excomm has midterms too! Volunteer at the Revelon Run/Walk for woman this Saturday. We will meet at Steele House around 8:00 am and be back after lunch. You'll get feed, get a T-shirt, and have lots of fun. If you have federal work study, you can earn the usual $12/hr. Contact Heather Dean at heatherd@cco.edu for more info.

Semana Latina is next week! Look for events every day. The week ends with a party Saturday night in the Ricketts-Fleming Courtyard. Contact the Y if you would like to know more about the events.

Dean's Corner
Van Gogh's Dopamine

by Jean-Paul Revel

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Catholic Big Brothers. Inc. needs YOU to lend a child a helping hand in a non-school-hours program where children ages 7 to 14 and volunteer mentors work together to improve reading skills and self-confidence. For instance, we are active participants in the nationwide campus movement against the sanctions and bomb threats. For more information contact Kathy Winterhalter at 310-546-6222 or visit www.catholicbig.com.

The Caltech Progressive Coalition welcomes students, faculty, and staff across campus—young, old, local, and international—who are interested in working hard for peace, human rights, and economic justice. To find out how you can get involved please contact Kevin at 626-395-4406 or kathryn@caltech.edu.

The talk is entitled: "Scientists or Pests?—Putting Weather Prediction on the Map." Refreshments will follow the lecture.

**For more information call Crop Petrikal at 626-449-8405.

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**This term's SEIDS lecture series continues tonight at Braun 1-12 in room 151 Slom with a talk entitled: "Gravitational Waves: Evidence for the Existence of a Compact Object in the Universe" by Kip Thorne, venerated Caltech professor and recent Nobel Prize winner. Refreshments will follow the talk.

**Dr. Beck Weathers, survivor of the May 1996 disaster on Mt. Everest, will speak of his incredible journey in his most recent book, "Miracles on the Mountain," which is located at the Northwest Pasadena Mayor's Office, Villa Park Coffee House, 1720 E. Main Street. Catholic Big Brothers has been serving volunteers and children of all faiths. For more information call 800-403-4066.

**The San Gabriel Valley Hospital is currently recruiting for the 1999-2000 academic year to participate in a study focusing on the relationship between the painting and the artist’s age at the time of execution. Admission is free. For more information, call campus ext. 3610.

**Rolph Marcus, Nobel Laureate and Amos Noyes Professor of Chemistry, Harry Gray, Arnold O. Beckman Professor of Chemistry, and Albert Einstein Professor of Humanities/Arts will discuss "The Chemistry of Life: Molecular Recognition and Evolution." For more information call 626-395-4562 or online at http://www.caltech.edu/~konsn/CCPB_tlmars.html.

**Come hear the Caltech Glee Clubs and Caltech Chamber Orchestra perform a selection of songs from 6:00 pm to 9:15 pm on Thursday, May 19 at 8:00 pm in Beckman Auditorium. The program includes "American Tap" and "Miracle in the Making." For more information call 626-395-4562.

**For more information contact Kellie Martin at 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4562.

Buddy Hatton will narrate the Armchair Adventures travel film "Miracles on the Mountain," which is located at the Northwest Pasadena Mayor's Office, Villa Park Coffee House, 1720 E. Main Street. Catholic Big Brothers has been serving volunteers and children of all faiths. For more information call 800-403-4066.

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

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Fellows and Students

**For more information on how to apply for these grants, please visit the National Science Foundation website at www/flyrng-2.com or call 515-559-1518.

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