Marshak Fiat Spots Outcry in Ricketts

By KAYTE FISCHER

A recent ultimatum by Student Affairs Vice President Margo Marshak has left Ricketts members scrambling for ways to preserve their fire-centered traditions while at the same time maintaining safety among both administrators and city officials.

Set in motion by a city-mandated destruction of the fire pot—previously the linchpin of Ricketts’ fire ritual—last week after a fire-related offense in Ricketts’ annual initiation exercise led Marshak to issue a firm declaration of policy in a February 13 letter. The note both charged the house $500 for added security at its annual Apache inter-house party and threatened to disband the house if communal wrongdoing continued.

The fiat came in response to an alleged fire offense at Ricketts’ February 7 initiations for new members. The recent destruction of the fire pot left members looking for new ways to incorporate the event’s traditional concluding fire—important, they argued, because it would provide an atmosphere in which house members could stay and chat as long as they liked.

Administrators obtained a permit to have a fire on North Feld from 11 p.m. until one a.m., which, they told Ricketts, was the latest the city allowed large fires. There was some sort of misconception on this topic, as later inquiries showed that permits were easily available that would’ve kept the fire alive until well after that hour. Even without the added permission, however, the initiations continued until after two a.m., at which point some Ricketts members deemed it necessary to have a fire in their courtyard.

By this point, some members had lighted candles in the shape of a pentagram in the courtyard. The Ricketts House resident associate, Jessica Edwards, reminded the members they were not allowed to have a fire, further upsetting some. Shortly after her exit from the courtyard, members started a small fire in a barrel in the courtyard. Under the supervision of a few trained people, with several extinguishers and a water hose available, the blaze lasted for a little over an hour, with smoke approximately half the house attending some point.

During this time, one member shut doors facing the Obesity, possibly in an attempt to deter security and other unwanted students. Despite the loss of one entrance, several remaining, including the passage to the courtyard shortly after two a.m.

Most likely, administrators would call any remaining artists to fill the exhibit, according to graduate student John Bender, the Institute Art Committee’s graduate representative. Though its location is yet to be determined, one hope for the project is that it would generate enough publicity to induce a famous artist to contribute. The exhibit would be maintained using funds from other planned buildings, known for his artistic prowess, Electrical Engineering Professor Peter Perso leads the committee charged with finding $66,000 worth of art.
By IRAM PARVEEN-BILAL

 Twice elected and both times dismissed by the administration, the head of the Institute of the Arts and Architecture, or as a “military regime,” suggesting an inherent conflict between the two. Although she conceded that she had reached the point of decided refusal to allow the U.S. in on terrorism, she questioned his legitimacy, dubbing him “flawed” and calling his rule very dangerous.

 The terrorist threat has also been on the rise in the future. Additionally, the Conduct Review Board has been working to destroy the house’s leadership of her decision. She promised Ricketts’ members with the possibility of being placed on involuntary leave or dispersing the house if other violations of policy were to occur in the future. Additionally, the Contact Review Committee began flotation by allowing for one percent of the fee-and its lack of an educational component usually required for disciplinary action.

 "The institute simply cannot afford to pay for the costs associated with this action."

 In the official letter, the administration threatened Ricketts House with further suspicion from the fire department, additional pressure on Ricketts House to apply one percent of the fee-and its lack of an educational component usually required for disciplinary action. Administrators never punished Ricketts communally, however.

 But after Marshak’s letter, the threat looms larger than ever before. In reality, Marshak’s threats represent simply the culmination of administrative response to Ricketts’ actions. It cannot do simple typesetting and word processing.

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The new ASCIT BoD whom you elected or were appointed to is in full swing this Friday. While none of us have yet officially assumed our roles, I believe we have already started our jobs. As ASCIT President, I've been meeting with the administration numerous times to get us all up to speed and discuss student issues. Today, I want to open a discussion on the cost of the student body. This column is the first in a weekly column in the Tech where I keep the student body, faculty, and administration informed on what and what ASCIT is doing for you. This weekly “talking points” column is my way of fulfilling that promise.

The letter is a list of positive policies that we recommend the administration make all effort to implement. In my opinion, there is no law or regulation that makes it illegal or unreasonably difficult for the administration to accept these recommendations. Acknowledging this, we brainstormed over last weekend and presented this preliminary list on Tuesday morning. It is our hope that the administration will act on these suggestions and start sending the student body good news instead of warnings.

First in a series of weekly columns by ASCIT president to the student body to run in the Tech.

The Califarnia Tech Archive

Tom Fletcher

My dear administrators,

Two weeks ago, Vice-President Marshall asked student leaders for suggestions for positive improvements to life on campus. Recently, a situation that is frightening many students has come to light, and the administration is in the process of making the campus safe. Furthermore, the administration has been working on the problem for several weeks, and I think it is time to share our progress.

Recently, the situation involving Ricketts has cast the administration and student body in adversarial roles.

In light of this, we are presenting you this preliminary list of suggestions for improving Caltech student life. We wish to emphasize that Caltech has made it a priority in the eyes of prospective students by offering a different lifestyle that no other university can offer. It is for this reason that we continue to receive more than any other student-faculty ratio or promise of research, which has attracted the current student body.

We hope that you will act on these items on this list, we hope to improve and nurture this student life. We also hope that these actions, taken by the administration, can repair the trust between student and administration that has been lost as a result of the actions of the last few weeks. We hope that our joint efforts can set a precedent for student-administrative cooperation and add to the accessibility and quality and uniqueness of Caltech student life.

I'll save this for later and just let you peruse the letter to get a fair view of what we're thinking.

Sincerely,

Tod Joo
ASCIT President
galen Loram
ASCIT President-elect

Jeremy Pitts
Chair-elect

Jessie Knaeland
Secretary

Kristen Zorten
President-elect

Lyle President

Jessica Andrade
Page President-elect

Ricketts President-elect

BoD, IHC Present Open Letter to Administration

February 18, 2003

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THE CALIFORNIA TECH FEATURES

February 20, 2003

Promises

Boj Tele, Vîmert, Joe, Kim, Marcus, Beat, Neda, Andrea, Absent: Julian Guest: Tom Fletcher, Anna Sciacca, Joanna Cohen, Jeremy Pim, Kalyths Hal, Cetina Zygwarin, Harri, Thomas, Spencer Rackin (Jill is sick).

Meeting called to order at 10:18 p.m.

General Meeting:
Ted discusses the installation dinner, to be held at Margot Stanford’s house on February 28. Newly elected officers and newly appointed committee members will attend.

Margo Marshak, Suzette Cummings, Tom Mannion, David Baltimore and Alice Hsiang.

Spencer has come to discuss possible ways to spend surplus ASCIT budget money on equipment that might be useful for use by the Big T staff. A high-quality sound system is needed for use at the various interhouse parties we would like to throw that could also be used for general campus purposes (e.g., the $376 in ASCIT finds to subsidize their “Gamma Ray” look for use by the Big T staff). A high-quality sound system is needed for use at the various interhouse parties we would like to throw that could also be used for general campus purposes (e.g., the $376 in ASCIT finds to subsidize their “Gamma Ray” look for use by the Big T staff).

Neda feels that purchases must be approved by the BoD. Tom feels that the BoD feels that $363 is not enough to spend. Joe feels that sound equipment would be an investment that could return money from this year. Sound equipment should return that money from this year. Sound equipment would be an investment that could return $700. Neda points out that publications normally such equipment is rented. In the past have lost digital cameras even though we have been able to make use of ASCIT money to buy them.

Joe suggests that we take Isaac See, our student subject for use by the Big T staff. A high-quality sound system is needed for use at the various interhouse parties we would like to throw that could also be used for general campus purposes.

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The BoD makes two hard copies of their work to Professor Jenijoy La Belle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, California Institute of Technology, 1200 E. California Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91125.

Jeremy requires Ruddick’s $200 in lecture finds, in addition to $300 to multi-house event fund, for the Ruddick interhouse party. “Roman Coli.

They’ve got some impressive multi-story construction, and apparently the Physical Plant safety inspector was so pleased that he’s going to give us a tour and a check-up.”

Speakers for next week: Mike Lammers of Page House.

Neda has researched possible music groups for a concert in the Rockers-Fleming courtyard. This looks to be one of the most expensive options. She is waiting to get an e-mail back from the concert company.

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Letters: Ricketts Pres., More Racial Slurs: 'Fob' 'Racist' Also a Target

Dear creators of the Crippled Depression,

I would like to address your current issue, known as the Crippled Depression. First off, you do not have to refer to the word "fob," an acronym for "fresh off the boat," commonly applied to recent Chinese immigrants. I think you don't realize, Mr. Crippled Depression, that for although you might just be something meant to be played with in a movie or from a song, it is a way to宦 perpetuate a nearly 100-year history of years of racism and violence. It's a word I can't hear or read without a small shudder and a feeling of emotional pain.

Of course I understand what you were trying to accomplish; I am assuming you were trying to write the most offensive cartoon against Asian-Americans. However, I realize you used the word "fob" particularly to make our firmly yet subtly racist society, there is such a thing as too far in a statement which can be read as a joke, call it a tasteless attempt at wit, but you have intensified the use of a charged word, and referring the way you did to Asian-American culture and TAs in particular.

I have heard from the Tech for publishing such a disgusting cartoon. Any shred of journalistic integrity that was left vanished the moment that cartoon was approved. That this approval could approve such a thing just blows my mind.

Last week, I heard someone use the phrase "fob" during a dinner conversation, and I also read an article on the Tech on the same day. Without the cartoon, these incidents would never have happened. I don't call it a single instance, I think you will not allow an atmosphere where this kind of language exists. I think that's something that takes not to O.K. to call me a fob.

Lilian Zhang '05

Ricketts Pres. Apologizes

Dear editors,

I write to you on behalf of Ricketts House and the undergradu­ate community at large in objection to the March 18, 2003 editorial that the open fire in Ricketts courtyard on February 8, 2003. First, I want to make it clear that this letter will not attempt to excuse or justify the actions of the House or its individu­als. Everyone present at the event was aware of the intention of those involved. People are against the Institute's cur­riculum. Then, too, scholars have increas­ingly emphasized that members of subordinated groups have not been held to the same standards as other students. The realization that ethnic relations are never really separate actions has contributed further to the bur­geoning of scholarship.

A trend has perhaps given an even deeper effect on the study of ethnic relations. Despite the end of legalized segregation and disfran­chisement, the passage of civil rights laws, and a marked decline in whites' belief in the genetic in­feriority of other peoples and the morality of discriminating against them, many African-Americans, somewhat smaller proportions of Latinos, and even some Asian­ Americans still suffer from discrimina­tion and poverty. Yet politi­cal "conservatives" represent such problems to ethnic relations to individuals' inadequacies, and declare that America is a color­blinded society. Can colorblindness be just as it has expanded their feelings, as much as to discover cardboard heroes and cardboards, and perhaps both, even in the same space.

These trends make it difficult to organize courses in ethnic relations at any university. There are large problems in the literature of many disciplines, or concentrate on one or two. Which of the words worthy and interesting topics does one take up? How much history, how much soci­ology, how much economics, how much political science, how much social psychology? There are also problems specific to Caltech. While at other institutions teachers might enter ethnic studies courses expect­ing to discover cardboard heroes and villains, and to express their feelings, such as much to discover new things, at Caltech, how to antic­i­mate at Caltech. Here, the diffi­culty is that students have almost no background at the college level in history, empirical economics or political science, or in any kind of

Continued from Page 3, Column 5

sociology or social psychology. Students arrive at a course with widely varying levels of knowledge and abilities, and courses must often provide a good deal of essentially introductory-level mate­rial.

For all of these reasons, HSS 154 has been organized completely dif­ferently every time it has been taught, allowing for example that it would be a cumulative, two-quarter sequence, patterned on the successful Supreme Court course, and that it would move from the social scientific generalizations to historical speci­fications, or vice versa. Caltech students just not the right kind to go to or free units to make that possible. I therefore would like to explore the virtue of necessity and to exploit the range and excellence of the liter­ature by making the "a" and "b" quarter independent, instead of requiring both of the other, and by sampling from differ­ent sources. What have I brought over from the Supreme Court is the assign­ments (as well as writing re­ports by each student on books as­sociated with, but in addition to, the common reading. As a conse­quence, students take perhaps more responsibility than in typical courses for organizing their own learning, and all of us are at least indirectly exposed to a considerable amount of knowledge.

The term for the learning term is illustrative, including common read­ing in this area over the history of main­stream material sources on African­ Americans and Japanese-Americans. For example, one discusses the history of caltech, the history of the politics and economics of racial discrimination in America, and even an in-depth examination of the situation in apartheid in 20th century South Af­ rica. It is interesting to note that all these topics, with a special em­phasis on the role of political and social thought in the study of African­ Americans.

Worldwide modernization has not ended group conflicts or identities as much as it has expanded their scope. Fights that used to be
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Continued on Page 6, Column 4

THE CALIFORNIA TECH COMMENTARY FEBRUARY 24, 2003

5

"The Living and Dead": Use of Common Sense

by JEN-PAI LIN

 Revel

These last few months have been more contentious than usual on this campus, with many students chaf­ing at the suggestion that they are not living up to the ideals of a liberal and free society. Some even feel that there are threats to the very things that Caltech stands for. In fact, instead of, well, you know, else­where. I, and I believe many others in the campus who are usually silent (and in the faculty too) have been a bit taken aback at the perspective that I, for one, sure hope that the view expressed for example by Sam Libin Zhang '05, is somewhat ideologically.

The last time I looked it, the rationale for coming to Caltech is rather different, having to do with "the" (students to faculty, not gender or ethnic, however hard we try), with a tuition rate lower than at any other prestigious colleges, with financial aid where needed, with the chance to work and live next to people as smart as yourself, and the opportunity to interact with a dis­tinguished faculty in fields of science and the humanities too. Not less important (remember SURF appli­cations are due on March 31), was the appeal of many opportunities for research. Finally it was also of­fered to you the opportunity of appealing to live under an honor code and to have them to exercise your good judgment on whether you were free to answer - only some of them.

Is it possible that one comes to Caltech with the idea that federal government that has evolved on the basis of those principles and rules are not applicable to the students and that the same standards apply to the undergraduates as the laws of physics? I have to admit that's news to me and I think to a lot of other people as well.

How is it then certainly very Caltechian to believe in the supe­riority of physics. Even as a bi­ologist I will be quite happy to ad­mit that if one digs deep enough, one eventually gets to the level of physics. It may be a bit awkward to deal with how the brain works when you do physics. It is just as right, that's right, eventually brain func­tions.

Continued on Page 6, Column 4

between two villages now often en­compass countries and continents. Their match to apply now to one lunch counter or university and gradually to others, opinions and the tactics immediately.

For example, the same five U.S. Supreme Court justices who stopped the count in December, 2000 and awarded the champi­onship to George W. Bush by a tech­nical knockout are poised to do the affirmative action constitutional in all public and private universi­ties, both in the states, as dis­parately ever as possible.

As John Rawls would put it, you make the laws, the effect of their choice is that you can not dis­regard the little, universities, gradua­te, and professional schools, and institutions, all of which choose American and non-Cuban Latins, and even the more politically responsive ones. But that's not it, that's right, eventually brain func­tions.

Continued on Page 6, Column 4
Indie Mag, Chickfactor’s Mix Tape Reviewed by High Fidelity Rules

Staff Reviewer Looks at All’s Fair in Love and Chickfactor

By JONATHAN CHANG

Album: all’s fair in love and chickfactor’s mix tape
Artist: Various Artists
Label: Chickfactor/Enchanted Records
Chickfactor? Why, it’s one of those indelible magnums of power pop music.

Think geniuses can relish in their indie sobriety. Or as they put it in the international bible of French new wave, Tuffly bossa nova, anglophilic garage pop, and other junk.

But what would a grand music “tune” be without a mistake? To remedy this ten year lapse, the folks over at Chickfactor have put out a mixtape, entitled “all’s fair in love and chickfactor’s mix tape.”

As you might have gathered from the way they’ve described themselves, Chickfactor is really focused on twee pop music, leaving out any sort of Garage subgenres. Everyone from Georgie from Yo La Tango to Stance Kinney to Liz Phair to Cibo Mato have graced the pages of Chickfactor, so one expects only good things on this mixtape. But let’s see how well the mixtape holds up against the tried and true rules of making a good compilation tape.

“You gotta kick off with a killer, to hold the attention;”

The album does this trick perfectly. As the first few tracks are, they’re succeeded by tracks from the Magnetic Fields, the Porcupine, and Low. The Magnetic Fields’ contribution to this compilation is aptly available otherwise only on a7” single. “I Don’t Believe You,” just proves that these bands deserve their place in the canon of indie pop.

“Maybe cool off a notch:”

The album then slows down to a barely adequate pace. The next track is a little minimalist gem from Shannon Wright called “I Started a Joke.” The sparse acoustic guitars make this a perfect complement for her unique voice. The song that follows quite possibly the best song I’ve heard in a while. It’s a simple bossa nova ditty by The Legendary Jim Ruiz called “Ariel.” The lyrics themselves confess that the song only has five chords, but the song is a lot of fun and it’s full of great lines like “I always believed that love first was like Italian screen logic, something you can’t find.”

The album gets more eclectic from there. There’s April March’s “Mon Ange Garden,” which you probably won’t like, unless of course, you’re in to French bubblegum pop. And then there’s the Chameleons’ “Rain,” which harks backs to the days of classic rock, a la the Byrds, or the Go-Betweens. The Chameleons’ song makes for a good single - fast, upbeat, easy to sing to, and full of hooks. And it’s a good way to cap off a compilation album.

So like most good mixtapes, this album is chock full of great songs that you probably wouldn’t have otherwise heard. However, it draws such an eclectic mix of songs that there’d undoubtedly be a few you find yourself skipping over. Nonetheless, the songs you don’t skip over make this a dear and worthwhile purchase.

CAUTION IN BLOOM

Does your old health plan fit the new you?

If you’re in between jobs, have just gotten married, had a child, or experienced another significant life change, make sure you have the health coverage that fits the new you. With Blue Shield of California’s Deductible PPO Plans you can choose from among four annual deductible levels, so you can renew to find a plan that fits you needs and budget. Call today to compare coverage and see how affordable a Blue Shield Deductible PPO Plan can be (626) 792-4219.

Twelfth Night Review, Humor: It’s Worth It

By JENNY FOFINOVA AND ARTHI SRINIVASAN

Having been unable to come up with a funny headline for the article, I staggered into Rano Amrit Paul’s Thursday night bright-eyed and willing to write to a cautionary review just in case the rehearsal was a poor in- dication of opening night. The rehearsal was deafening, however, was so smooth, that I for once, at times I forget that I was the only person in the audience, despite the fact that some of the actors could be heard in baggy jeans, and top coats.

The opening scene was very ef- fective. The Duke (Frederick Rupe) has a great stage entrance and delivered the first line beautifully, immediately creating the reality of the play. Director Marraas made the unusual decision to have some actors, including the Duke before the curtain, as he told the front row, and it has worked very well. In one scene, Sir Andrew Aguecheek (Noah Robinson) and Fabian (Nicholas Ruppert ’05)2 cantankerously battled at the front stage to avoid being seen by Malvolio (Steve Collins).

In general, the actors did a fan- tastic job. Sadava, in her first ASCPT role, pulled off a solid per- formance despite a very challenging role. She conveyed Viola’s dis- coasion derived from feeling being too believable a boy to the point of being the object of Olivia’s affection, and looked very uncomfort- able in her dressy court uniform. This, however, the actor was no more confident in those clothes than the character was, and the re- sult is all revealed in the end and Viola puts on a dress seemed more than just that of the charac- ter.

Likewise, Lavanya Vasudevan was very believable as Olivia. Her natural grace that Marcous had al- luded to in the interview before the rehearsal had carried her through the role, and she was as graceful in her pursuit of Cesario/Will as she was in dealing with her drunken uncle Sir Toby Belch (Doug Smith). The comic relief hours had hav- ing a lot of fun with their roles.

Those who only know Noah Robinson as the head Ch 1 TA this year will be surprised to see gallop around on stage as Andrew Aguecheek and seeming to enjoy himself tremendously as he and Malvold (Steve Collins) are mu- nicipated by Sir Toby, Maria (Lisa MacWilliams-Brooks ’03), and Fabian (Nicholas Ruppert ’05), who show us that often the servants far outsmart their masters.

But let’s see how well the mixtape turns out to be.

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If you’ve listened to the Fan
canons of indie pop.

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The audience is being very well-
and also very beautiful. Overall, a
good way to cap off a compilation

The album does this trick perfectly. As the first few tracks are, they’re succeeded by tracks from the Magnetic Fields, the Porcupine, and Low. The Magnetic Fields’ contribution to this compilation is aptly available otherwise only on a7” single. “I Don’t Believe You,” just proves that these bands deserve their place in the canon of indie pop.

“Maybe cool off a notch:”

The album then slows down to a barely adequate pace. The next track is a little minimalist gem from Shannon Wright called “I Started a Joke.” The sparse acoustic guitars make this a perfect complement for her unique voice. The song that follows quite possibly the best song I’ve heard in a while. It’s a simple bossa nova ditty by The Legendary Jim Ruiz called “Ariel.” The lyrics themselves confess that the song only has five chords, but the song is a lot of fun and it’s full of great lines like “I always believed that love first was like Italian screen logic, something you can’t find.”

The album gets more eclectic from there. There’s April March’s “Mon Ange Garden,” which you probably won’t like, unless of course, you’re in to French bubblegum pop. And then there’s the Chameleons’ “Rain,” which harks backs to the days of classic rock, a la the Byrds, or the Go-Betweens. The Chameleons’ song makes for a good single - fast, upbeat, easy to sing to, and full of hooks. And it’s a good way to cap off a compilation album.

So like most good mixtapes, this album is chock full of great songs that you probably wouldn’t have otherwise heard. However, it draws such an eclectic mix of songs that there’d undoubtedly be a few you find yourself skipping over. Nonetheless, the songs you don’t skip over make this a dear and worthwhile purchase.
From Morale to Core, Annual SFC To Tackle Gamut of Student Gripes

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The Student Faculty Conference began in 1980 with the stated goal of simply getting students and faculty together to talk. Over the years, the SFC has addressed a diverse range of issues in change in graduation requirements to installation of phone systems. For the past few years, the committee has discussed issues that are of great importance to students, such as second years in the late 1990s, leading to a marked decline in communication. This year, the ARC has addressed some of the more important problems that plague student life at Caltech. Further deliberations towards organizing a conference unprece...
The swim team just finished one of the best seasons in Caltech his- tory. The women finished the dual meet season 7-4 while the gentlemen finished 8-4. We are a nice blend of quality and depth, related coach Clinton Dodd. The team placed host to teams from Illinois and Washington as well as the pow- erhouses from Southern California. The ladies traveled up to the Bay Area and competed against Mills College, winning 149-45. The high point for the men was a close vic- tory over conference rival Pomona- Pitzer, 116-106.

Last weekend was the SCIAC Conference Championship held at Caltech. The meet had tons of highlights, as the sprinters and divers took center stage on the first day. Jim Rebesco '04 and Jacki Willett both made it on the SCIAC All-SCIAC team, and the 100 free relay set a new school record to 25.31 and Jim swimming the third fastest time in Caltech's history, 21.79 (Henry DeWitt ’07 - 21.7). Mike Greene ’97 - 21.61). Jacki ended up with a fifth place finish, while Jim raced to fourth place. Freshman Ben Pettetler dove well, placing second on the one-meter diving board. Natalie Kruk '06 swam to a personal best of 500 free in the 100 freestyle, placing 16th in the 100 freestyle. She managed to place third with this and luck- ily only one boat managed to es- cape to the middle of the pond where it could not be retrieved. The girls were quite proud of themselves when their boats were bal- anced correctly and managed to stay afloat.

The third and final day saw the swimmers continue their improve- ment. Jacki Willett took 12th in the 200 backstroke and Rebesco made it on the SCIAC All-SCIAC team finals to place fourth in the 100 freestyle. Hans Smith '05 also had an amaz- ing swing by taking first place in the 50 free relay, placing seventh and beating his trial time by over eight seconds. Also coming up big on the women's side was Saksy Byerly setting a personal best in the freestyle relay.

Day two was when the Techers' full squad came up into play as the div- ing and the stroke were competed. Pettetler again finished second in the three-meter diving behind a na- tionally ranked diver from Redlands. Beekman ’06 dove into seventh place, 10 points better than her previous record. Jacki was at a personal best to get into the finals of the 100 free and the con- red tape and Sudafed to represent men's team tied the NA-

The conference finals were a fight to the finish as the men's team tied forth place overall with Occi- denal College and Pomona-Pitzer. The Techers placed sixth overall, also beating out Whitier.