Health and Worklife Fair
Hosts Vendors, Activities

By ADAM SEARS

This year’s annual Health and Worklife fair combined powers on Friday afternoon at Caltech in a bid to combat disease and bring balance participation by students, both on and off campus, and faculty alike.

Though the fair was officially year’s offerings covered more territories and departments to those addressing larger academic concerns from the broad to the specific in this year’s Student Faculty Conference. The Core Curriculum Committee, led by ARC Chair Kathryn Hsu and ARC representative, adds that the conference turned up instances of Afghanis that had been shocked and disheartened by the Taliban, which have been named illegal by the U.S. in recent months. The primary discussion in the Engineering and Applied Sciences Conference will be addressing the creation of an aeronautics option. Students have also voiced concern for the lack of support for engineering electives and the fact that the only alternative for students who wish to take courses in this area is to take general education courses.

Panelists Analyze Art Of 'Explaining the Science'

By TAMMY MA

Albert Einstein said, “Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.” This was the quote Steven Youn, director of Caltech’s Health and Worklife Center, used to open last Monday’s Health and Worklife Symposium in Buster Lecture Hall.

He was, of course, applying Einstein’s words to how communicating science writing through writing should be done—simply and more clearly and in his words, “not as an act of drumming but of explaining the science.”

The event, co-sponsored by the Health and Worklife Center and the division of humanities and social sciences, was designed to address the challenges of communicating technical information to general audiences. The featured panelists were Los Angeles Times science correspondents Usha Lee McFarling, Alan Lichtenstein of MIT and Caltech’s David Goodstein, Russ Rosenzweig, writer and former CORE 1 instructor, was the moderator.

The symposium began with an introduction of each of the three panel speakers and their experiences in the field of science writing. Each spoke about his career choices and gave the audience insights on what it was like to be a science writer.

Usha Lee McFarling trained as a biochemistry major at Northwestern before working at the Boston Globe before returning to graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley. She is currently a science writer at the L.A. Times. She calls her job “the greatest job in the world,” which gives her opportunities to experience anything from whaling with EKOS to visiting the observatory room at the Keck telescope. She explained that she is one of a four-person team at the L.A. Times. Two of the science journals focus on medicine, one on biology and Ms. McFarling covers pretty much everything else that happens in the science world.

She calls the job of a science journalist “extremely challenging” due to a number of limitations. The first is space constraints. Newspapers still provide a lot of information. Though sometimes little space is put aside for science writing, McFarling brought examples of science articles from various newspapers including The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times and U.S. News, with the science sections for any one day ranging from a couple pages to a column to several paragraphs. She further cited the difficulties of staying up to date the most pertinent information to place in the article, which also giving enough background information to allow the reader to understand the science.

McFarling also mentioned the constraints of language involved in newspaper writing. Papers are generally written for the seventh-grade level of reading and comprehension. Therefore, the challenge exists in trying to describe nuclear physics in a manner simple enough that the common layperson can understand.

Said McFarling, “The goal is not to dumb things down but to make them accessible.”

Continued on Page 7, Column 3

Iqra: Bombing For Peace?
RAWAs Faryal Responds

By LIA HILDEBRANDT

A few weeks ago, the United States went to war with Iraq. The prefixed prefix of bombing of Iraq is the people’s liberation from the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. Sounds right, doesn’t it? But, the government that the U.S. installed is not democratic. Afghanistan is now ruled by the Northern Alliance, yet another group of religious fundamentalists. Taimura Faryal blames religious fundamentalism for the destruction of Afghanistan.

A brief overview of the history of Afghanistan can explain this. Faryal says that in 1979 to 1989, the country was occupied by the Soviets. In 1992, after all of the Soviet troops had withdrawn, the country had become a civil war. Until now, many different fundamentalists from many different religious groups have engaged in a civil war in Afghanistan. Faryal says that E 5, a freshman engineering student, has had much success in Afghanistan because of the lack of sufficient course work available in others. The discussion turned up instances where important topics can be avoided in the majors or there was a lack of sufficient course work available in others.

According to Faryal, the U.S. failed miserably in the liberation of Afghanistan. The idea was to end the rule of the Taliban and to then establish a democratic government. But, the government that the U.S. installed is not democratic. Afghanistan is now ruled by the Northern Alliance, yet another group of religious fundamentalists. Taimura Faryal blames religious fundamentalism for the destruction of Afghanistan.

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From Caltech to Michigan, Composer Dazzles Crowds

Many students escape from the rigors of a Caltech education by turning to music. This means joining one of Caltech's many instrumented groups or organizing on their own. For one Caltech junior, however, it meant composing a horn concerto.

Andrew Hsieh '04 has never had a formal class in music theory or composition. The horn concerto is his first major composition—a reflection of his idea that he ever writes a melody is a really short duty for violin and viola, of which he says he is not very proud.

He started playing around with writing music during his sophomore year in high school. "I started to think about composition, and then wrote out some notes," he recalls. "But none of it amounted to anything."

"I've had a lot of time this summer," he says, "I was cleaning my room when he came across these notes I had written. "I just decided that I should really try to follow them," he explained.

Hsieh's note ended up being part of the main theme of the first movement of his concerto.

The horn had always been one of Hsieh's favorite instruments, even though he does not play it. His involvement in other instrumented groups at Caltech is quite broad, however. He plays viola for the Caltech orchestra, viola, and viola and violin for the Caltech chamber orchestra and euphonium for the Concerto Bar and Orchestra.

Hsieh originally planned four movements for the horn and orchestra. But during his next three weeks of work, he notes that he changed his mind. "I thought about what he could do for any new composer: the offer to have his work performed publicly. "I've had a lot of time this summer," he says, "I was cleaning my room when I came across these notes I had written. "I just decided that I should really try to follow them," he explained.

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President Baltimore's Abuse of Power: Unaccountable, Unresponsive, Shameful

Too Much Authority: 'This Little Brother's Watching You, Too'

By TOM FLETCHER
Makes You Want to Holler

Thursday night, I saw power abuse.

President Baltimore hosted student leaders at his house for an annual meeting and dinner. After dessert, the mood became even more hostile. Baltimore stood up and announced that the agenda of today's meeting of the President's Management Council, was quashed by fiat last week. He then read off the list of questions I'd been met by yet-to be fair, he hadn't; I had a list of questions I'd been working on for a couple weeks waiting to pounce on him at this, my one chance to get a straight answer.

"Could you please comment on the proposal from Ricketts House to make firepots legal?" It was one of the few new fire pot that my management council is considering on Monday.

I'm pretty sure he wasn't expecting me to raise a hand, he was hoping for some nice, easy questions about parking and then cut it off before I could get to my one chance to get a straight answer.

"That's not a question," he said as I raised my hand.

"I think you have a list of questions that you've been working on for a couple weeks waiting to pounce on him at this, my one chance to get a straight answer.

Brian McKnight helped Ricketts through a tough time, he explained that students at every house have their own grievances aired. If we don't show our voice we may never be able to voice our grievances again. It is our one opportunity to get our grievances heard. If we don't show our voice, there's no chance that our voices will be heard.

"I am out to fight these kinds of abuses to my very last breath of life," President Luis Ricketts said.

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The IHC will also select a list of names of possible members from Math Brewer (Matt from Fine Jewelry) and the interviews for these positions will come down on Friday, April 18th at 5 pm.

Kim says that the number of BoC cases are approximately one hour of formal instruction, but this source should be stated in the entry. The entries may be judged on the basis of the nature of the problem, originality and rigour of the proof. Any outside references used should be indicated. Entries from each contestant or group may be placed in an envelope and delivered to the Mathematics Office, 328, May 3. The names of the contestant, or the names of the faculty who will make awards to the winners, prizes will ordinarily be awarded for the best entries in the 2-4 hour entry, the entries which are judged to be the most promising. Prizes for individual entries will be limited to one to a contestant and no group may win more than one prize.

“April,” said T.S. Eliot, “is the cruellest month—so fitting that April is also Mathematics Awareness Month. The April 2003 issue of Notices of the American Mathematical Society, celebrates the occasion with the article, "Artful Mathematics: The Heritage of Asia," by T. W. Sastri, one author, and "The Golden Ratio: Its Mathematics and History," by A. P. J. K strategy to select a judge of excellence in the field of mathematics. A cash prize of $500 to an individual who will select a group of finals and inform the Mathematics Awareness Month Committee. The problem was not written by any source, but this source should be stated in the entry. The entries may be judged on the basis of the nature of the problem, originality and rigour of the proof. Any outside references used should be indicated. Entries from each contestant or group may be placed in an envelope and delivered to the Mathematics Office, 328, May 3. The names of the contestant, or the names of the faculty who will make awards to the winners, prizes will ordinarily be awarded for the best entries in the 2-4 hour entry, the entries which are judged to be the most promising. Prizes for individual entries will be limited to one to a contestant and no group may win more than one prize.

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CONCERNED COUNCIL

NCCUA Your savings federally insured to $100,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency. CEFCU is an equal opportunity lender.
On Food, Wine and Winning Wars

Dean Revel Contemplates the Boundaries of Political Correctness

By JEAN-PAUL REVEL

The war in Iraq is not over yet, but who would blame us if in their heart of hearts that we would witness the scenes we saw on TV last week, such a short time after the bombers first unleashed their terrorism on the streets of Baghdad. We still don't know the whereabouts of Saddam Hussein and we already have come to realize that perhaps he will not be seen by us, you know, a Frenchman. "Come to think of it perhaps the French will not publish my weekly "A bizantin." Already in the issue of 3/17 I was supplanted by Libin Zhang's impersonation. "There was a time when French scientists could present their work only in French for example during de Gaulle to mark the beginning of our campaign to have a change of government in Iraq. I guess it might be significant that the first thing we did was to follow a tip given by an insider and try to bomb Saddam Hussein out of his boat and sailing that, at least out of one of his hideouts. Maybe we were trying to scare him out of his wits, although that would seem unnecessary since I guess if he had any we would not be there. Depending on one's leanings that of course may be seen as an inappropriate comment; I guess it can be argued that if we had any we would not be there. Depending on one's leanings that of course may be seen as an inappropriate comment; I guess it can be argued that if we had any we would not be there. Depending on one's leanings that of course may be seen as an inappropriate comment; I guess it can be argued that if we had any we would not be there. Depending on one's leanings that of course may be seen as an inappropriate comment; I guess it can be argued that if we had any we would not be there. Depending on one's leanings that of course may be seen as an inappropriate comment; I guess it can be argued that if we had any we would not be there. Depending on one's leanings that of course may be seen as an inappropriate comment; I guess it can be argued that if we had any we would not be there. Depending on one's leanings that of course may be seen as an inappropriate comment; I guess it can be argued that if we had any we would not be there. Depending on one's leanings that of course may be seen as an inappropriate comment; I guess it can be argu..."
CUTO Shares Experience, Business Advice in Talk

By ROBERT L.I

Last Monday, the Caltech Entre­
preneur Club sponsored a talk by Mark Foster ’92, Caltech alumni
and the senior vice president and chief
technology officer of NeuStar, Inc. Mr. Foster, who earned a BS in
Physics and Computer Science at Caltech, has over 25 years of en­
trepreneurial experience.

In his hour-long talk, Mr. Foster focused on his employ­
ment history and how he came to be the CEO of NeuStar. During high school, Foster was already consult­
ing for a local computer company. After high school graduation, Foster was offered a job at the com­
pany and worked there for several years before coming to Caltech. In the years following the earning of his BS, Foster did more consulting
and gradually gravitated toward the telecommunications industry.

During the early ’90s, Foster be­
came involved with a project at Sprint for a voice-activated calling­
card and voice-mail system. The project was planned to be rolled out nationwide but was canceled for
unrelated financial reasons. Follow­
ing this development, Foster left Sprint and formed his own compa­
y to head a division within Lockheed to work on satellite technology. With a focus on number portability, that is a hot issue in the
telephone deregulation debate.

Telephone number portability is the process by which you can keep your telephone number even if you decide to switch local tele­
phone companies. At Lockheed, Foster developed the technology for a nationwide telephone number portability sys­
tem. Due to the superiority of Foster’s design, Lockheed was awarded a contract as the sole ad­
ministrator of the telephone num­ortability system by the FCC and then by the Canadian and Mexi­
can governments. When Lockheed decided to go into the satellite communications business in the late ’90s, Foster’s group was spun off from NeuStar.

Currently, NeuStar operates the Number Portability Administrative Center Service Management System
(NPAC SMS). The NPAC SMS is connected to all 5000 public communications carriers in the US and routes virtually every call in North America. Aside from manag­
ing the number portability database, NeuStar has also entered the role
as merchant registrar business and operates the .us, biz domains and
some of the new non-commercial registra­tions in the .com domain. NeuStar is also exploring areas such as direc­
toIP and IPTV as well as being involved in the Liberty Alli­ance to develop digital identity ser­
ices.

At the conclusion of his talk, Mr. Foster offered some advice for as­
piring entrepreneurs. The most im­
portant thing new entrepreneurs, Foster said, is to have a good net­
work and to always be honest and build trust with other people.

The event was attended by around 30 people, most of whom were graduate students. The Caltech Entre­
preneur Club has held events since 1994 to help Caltech entre­
preneurs get started.

Fair Urges Balance Of School, Body, Family

Continued from Page 1, Column 2

promote both. Police and sol­
diers opened fire, however, and beat the students with clubs and
rifles, killing several students and
injured dozens. But perhaps one of the most
shocking aspects of Afghan life that
leaked through to western coun­
tries, Faryal theorized, was the way
the women are treated there.
Faryal’s parents, she says, were forbiden to leave the house without
being accompanied by a close male relative.

Now that the Taliban is not in power anymore, these rules are of­
cially void. Still, many women in Afghanistan today still wear the
burka. When Faryal asked a few of
the students if they felt more safety and secu­
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The Taliban’s example of Afghani­
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students: The Caltech En­
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preneurs get started.
Caltech's programming team of Nate Paymer '03, Jacob Burnim '06 and Adam D'Angelo '06 placed first in North America in the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest held March 25, 2003.

Coding Team Places 13th in World

By JENNY IFOINOVA and ARTHI SRINIVASAN

The Caltech programming team of Jacob Burnim '06, Adam D'Angelo '06 and Nate Paymer '03 achieved world ranking in the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest World Finals held over spring break.

The three-man team named Caltech placed 13th in the world—tied with eight other schools including the University of California, Berkeley—and first in North America by correctly solving six of the ten problems presented to them. The five-hour competition was held in Beverly Hills. The primary round of the competition had over 1300 universities from 68 countries represented.

Caltech had three teams in competition in the regional round. Interested students started preparing for the competition during the first term, in a special section of CS 11. The twelve people who were interested spent several weeks taking practice exams and eventually Caltech A, B, and C teams were formed. The A and B teams placed first and second in the Southern California Regional competition held in March, thus the top two teams receive an invitation to the World Finals, but since the top two were both from Caltech, only the A team went on.

Second team, according to Burnim, "[the team] was pretty much on its own. He then added, "before the final round, we practiced for about 20 hours, as soon as finals were over." The team members individually tried their hand at practice contests and they all participated in TopCoder, a programming contest for college students. In preparation for the actual competition that was held on Tuesday, March 25th, the team drove to Beverly Hills on the previous Saturday and practiced in the various activities that had been arranged for them by the competition sponsors.

While at Beverly Hills, the teams also participated in a side Java Challenge competition, in which the teams wrote a Java program to control a car. The competition was held in real time during dinner directly in front of the competing teams, Burnim recalled, "We got fourth place in that and we sit next to [D'Angelo's Simon], who got second and together we were probably louder than the rest of the place.

During the actual five-hour final, each team shared one computer to solve ten problems. In order to be as efficient as possible, the Caltech team used a rotation system by which one person typed code and the other two looked at other problems and wrote code by hand, then took a turn on the computer to type it in. Burnim said, "I also had a printer, the team members were also to proofread code with each other using a computer. Since according to D'Angelo, "the time is generally very quick, since we can figure out what to type faster than we can type.

The competition is scored based on the number of problems correctly solved, as well as the time taken and the number of incorrect solutions. A team correctly solves more problems than another team will receive the higher score, but if two teams solve the same number, the tie is broken by deducting penalty points based on the number of previous incorrect submissions.

Burnim commented on overall strategy, "It's very important you do the shortest ones first. The top ten teams had all solved at least seven problems while the top 25 had all solved six, so that ranking was completely based on who did them faster." D'Angelo added, "there was a lot of luck in general."

All of the teams had their own table in a large conference room during the competition. After a team correctly solved a problem, a balloon was hung at their table. By looking at the number of balloons at different tables around them, the Caltech team knew they were doing well; however, according to D'Angelo, "we weren't sure we were going to do as well as we did, although we knew we had a shot at first in North America."

The team members commented on the fact that this year the competition was significantly different than in the previous years. Before, there were eight problems with a range of difficulty. This year, according to D'Angelo, "there were ten easier ones; it was enough for the Caltech team to read the problems once to develop an overall strategy for solving them and the trouble was coding and debugging.

The contest itself, however, was not any easier. Overall, he noted, "the level of competition has been increasing" from year to year. Bob Burnim and D'Angelo are freshmen, which bodes well for next year's team. D'Angelo added that "we may have a shot at first in North America."

The team members commented that science often is like a secret. To find and research something that is unpublished publicly, but in hundreds of dialects—one for each subfield of science. Often times, we are not even aware we are using jargon when we are discussing science to others.

He compared writing about science to teaching science. "To teach science well, we must remember what it was like not to understand, that we must go back and remember what it was like to learn science each step of the way. That's what I want to do."

The world of science is a huge puzzle, with each new piece necessary for the whole. Recently, a new piece was added: science communication. Caltech's chances in future years since all finalists have participated in TopCoder, a program contest in which after the entire interview, there was only one tall sentence he had said that she could use in her article. She therefore described her job not just as a journalist, but as a translator.

Another example of the difficulties of science writing she spoke about was filtering through the massive amounts of information that now exist in the information age.

"There is no longer a single source for laypeople who need to make informative decisions about things such as stem-cell research and environmental health. "As a society, we need to keep a level of technical literacy," remarked McFarling. The next speaker was Vice Provost David Goodstein. As a physics professor for over three decades, he has also become an influential writer and ambassador of science. Dr. Goodstein observed that communication has been a problem since the invention of modern scientists. Galileo remains one of the first communicators, spanning the divide to this day. He wrote in Italian, the common language, rather than in Latin, so that any common person could read his thoughts and in doing so, created huge controversy over his heliocentric versus geocentric theory.

"As a society" he said, "we often write to get something across. It is now more daunting and that the world of science needs more people involved with the process of making scientific writing world marketable and making it accessible."

This symposium had originally been scheduled for February, but it was postponed due to the recent Commission on Teaching Science. We talked about some of the panelists to be called to testify. It was the first of what words matter program hopes to be an annual event, to foster literary activity and interest in the varied forms of writing and to aid with the Core Science Writing Requirement. With a smile, Steven Youra, director of the Hixon Writing Center, said "I hope it will be an annual Science Writing Symposium last Monday."

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