Mouthwatering Mushroom Fare Marks 'Chef Contest'

By VI TRAN

Mouths watered and stomachs rumbled on Tuesday night as the annual Mushroom Chef Competition returned to the campus.

The competition, which is a tradition at Caltech, is held to raise money for the Asian Pacific Student Union's Iron Chef Contest. This year, the event took place in the Union East dining hall.

Teams of four, consisting of students from different majors, competed against each other to create the best mushroom dish. The judges included faculty members, staff, and alumni.

The dish that received the most votes was a mushroom risotto, which was prepared by a team consisting of seven undergraduate students from the Department of Chemical Engineering. The dish included white and brown rice, mushrooms, and a variety of vegetables. The students used a special recipe that they developed over several weeks of preparation.

Despite the close competition, the risotto team emerged victorious, impressing the judges with their innovative use of ingredients and presentation. The dish was served in a decorative glass bowl, with a garnish of fresh herbs and a drizzle of olive oil.

The proceeds from the competition will go towards supporting the Asian Pacific Student Union's Iron Chef Contest, which is held annually to raise money for various community service projects.

In other news, the University Planning Office has announced plans for a new student center to be built on the main campus. The center will include a library, student lounge, and study spaces, as well as a cafe and a multipurpose room for events.

The planning process has been underway for several years, and the university has received a significant donation from an alumnus to support the project. The construction is scheduled to begin next year, with an anticipated completion date of 2024.
TRADITIONAL DANCE ON DISPLAY IN APSU WEEK

Local Chinese dancers show off traditional steps last Friday at the capstone event of the Asian-Pacific Student Union's annual Heritage Week, which featured a plethora of cultural music, food and performances, varied by day, outside Winnett.

Media-splashed Campus Enjoys Day of Creativity

continued from Page 1, Column 3

much as four weeks ago. "A Dahney stack that could be seen running around campus was the "Yu-Gi-Oh!!" Stack, modeled after the card game. The participants found cards to add to their deck and eventually went to Santa Monica to eat and shop. Some stacks took longer than others: Fabrycky's stack took over three hours while other stacks were done shortly after lunch.

"Blackbear Special Ops: The Stack" will be completed this weekend as some parts were not ready in time due to technical difficulties. Once restored, the stack will form a four-propeller remote-controlled flying device created by Jonathan Tromey '03.

For the underclassmen, the day began at 7 a.m. when they were woken by seniors pounding on their doors, telling them that "Ditch Day is today!" Off-campus underclassmen were awakened by a phone call. Many houses had hints of the upcoming day on Wednesday night, such as announcements during dinner.

Most houses, however, had multiple fakes—staged Dahney Days designed to fool underclassmen—and there was a campus-wide fake the Friday before Ditch Day due to technical difficulties. Once restored, the stack will form a four-propeller remote-controlled flying device created by Jonathan Tromey '03.

Ditch Day has been a tradition at Caltech since 1921, although it has greatly evolved in nature since then. During the first few Dahney Days, se­ niors secretly planned a day to ditch their classes and escape from campus, to hide which day they would leave, they began the tradition of saying "it) tomorrow, fresh." The underclassmen subsequently began breaking into seniors' rooms and pranking them and the seniors began to "stack" their rooms with hokeypokey or large boxes to keep the underclassmen from getting in. This became a challenge, which is now evolved into a large, elaborate puzzle, challenging underclassmen to solve the tasks seniors leave for them. There's usually a piece from the stack, historically the prevent underclassmen from "counterstacking"—pranking a senior's room after getting into their stack.

Ditch Day this year was a success with all underclassmen and seniors involved, both underclassmen and seniors. As the juniors become seniors and plan for the next Tommorday, students all have something to look forward to.

at the presentation. The requirement of having a Caltech IP was a concern. For students not on a Caltech IP, ITS offers VPN so that the computer appears as if it were on the Caltech intranet. Despite being difficult to set up, it is the easiest solution. Also, a variety of other Caltech Web functions require a Caltech IP, so the added burden is not so much.

Freshmen would be able to register from a bank of computers when they arrived on campus in the fall. A couple of minor points included that petition status will not be available online. Spots in limited enrollment courses will be saved as soon as students enroll in the class, not when the advisor approves the schedule. The results of organizational meetings will hopefully be captured online.

The major concern was whether the link between students and their advisor would be retained. Complete online scheduling would make it too easy for advisors and students to never meet. Registrar Judith Goodstein said that to retain this contact, an automatic e-mail notification would be made to the advisor.

One idea on the table would require that a copy of the submitted schedule be sent to both the advisor and student for confirmation. Then in order to approve the schedule, the advisor would need to check a box saying that he had met with the student to discuss the schedule. The onus would be on the advisor to decide whether a meeting was warranted or to check the box without actually meeting with the student. The design team decided to further discuss the matter.

Faculty at the meeting requested a way for instructors to check the enrollment in their classes and a way to check the graduation requirements of their advisees.

At last Wednesday's Watson Lecture, Associate Professor of Planetary Astronomy Michael Brown discussed how he and postdoctoral scholar Chad Trujillo discovered Quaoar, thus far the largest Kuiper Belt object.

Brown and Trujillo decided to perform an automated sky search using the Oschin Telescope at Palomar, California. The telescope, while having a small 1.2-meter mirror diameter, had been small of view of three square degrees and was ideally suited for this purpose.

The procedure involved taking three electronic pictures of a piece of sky at 90 minutes intervals and having a computer look for moving objects that corresponded to an object in the Kuiper Belt. Interesting objects were marked for human analysis.

After seven months of searching, the initial discovery image of Quaoar was taken at 05:41:40 UTC on June 4, 2002 and Chad Trujillo identified the object at 10:48:08 Pacific time the same day. Since official recognition of the discovery normally requires one to track the object for a period of years, Brown and Trujillo decided that instead of waiting five years, they would try searching for Quaoar in old pictures of the sky where they calculated Quaoar's orbit.

This proved very successful and using pictures taken in 2001, 1997 and 1986, Brown and Trujillo were able to confirm that Quaoar and were given credit for the discovery by the International Astronomical Union. Since IAU rules specify that the object be named after a creation deity, Brown and Trujillo decided to name it after something local. After placing a call to the chief of the Tongva tribe, they decided on the name Quaoar.

Meanwhile, the discoverers used the Hubble Telescope and thermal measurements to determine the size and mass of the object. Quaoar has a volume of Pluto—or, about the volume of Pluto's moon, Charon—Quaoar was by far the largest object discovered in the Kuiper Belt and as a result made international headlines.

Technically, Quaoar is 128.75 km in diameter. It orbits the Sun in a near circular orbit of 42 AU or about six billion kilometers. The orbit is inclined at about eight degrees to the ecliptic. Due to its size, many press reports described Quaoar as being the tenth planet.

Brown says, however, that a planet is a body in a region of space that is not influenced by anything else in its area of space. Because Quaoar is surrounded by many Kuiper Belt objects, it is not considered a planet. Instead, it is classified as a dwarf planet.

Brown and Trujillo plan continue their search for large objects in the Kuiper belt. Recent upgrades to the Oschin telescope have enabled them to search much greater swathes of the sky at any given time and complete a survey of the entire Kuiper Belt region.
Students trying to redeem “free ice cream sundae” coupons at the Broad Cafe were denied because of an incident of copied coupons.

Where's My Ice Cream? Honor Code Falls Short

By DIMA KAMALOV

Last Monday, while at the Broad Cafe, I witnessed an unusual incident. A friend tried to redeem a “free ice cream sundae” coupon that she got on the Ge 1 field trip from Caltech Catering and was denied. The reason? There had apparently been an incident of students copying coupons and redeeming them numerous times.

There are two problems I see here. First and foremost, the students who copied the coupon broke nearly every Western ethical code. Second, the workers at the Broad stopped trusting other students as a result of it.

When I came to campus as a professor, I remember hearing about the honor code as if it was something sacred. During the carnival, when I went on the slip and slide, I left my wallet on the sidewalk and didn’t pick it up back up until several hours later and thought “Wow, I could do this all the time!” When I first got to campus, I bought Tommy Hil from a book sale that consisted of a box of textbooks worth about $300 sitting in the middle of Olive Walk, with instructions on where to send a check.

Since I’ve gotten to Caltech, I’ve had a wallet, two jackets, a backpack, a laptop and that same copy of Tommy taken. I couldn’t help but pause when I first entered the bookstore and saw a large sign telling me to put my backpack into the cubbies there. I was heartbroken when the workers at Broad insisted I leave. There is no blanket policy mentioned above.

Thankfully, these issues are not entirely internal. Theft on campus from the outside, who see us as an easy target, is not our shortcoming. Instead, it is easy to blame the “real world” for everything. I think that a significant part of the problem lies with our own mindsets. Problems are one thing; solutions, another. To my knowledge, photocopying coupons is legal unless prohibited directly on them. An old page printed from million of entry forms into a local McDonald’suffle which allows multiple entries comes to mind. Security precautions are both legal and ethical. Still, I think a community that stresses trust as one of its most valued goals. I hope that people will think twice before both breaking it and not believing it.

On a more personal note, if the people who copied the coupon would like to do something productive for up to make for their actions, I’d suggest buying everyone in Ge 1 an ice cream. As a further incentive, I’d be glad to split half of the cost if you so desire. Finally, if you’d like to remain anonymous, feel free to slide $30 or $60 under my door and I’ll do it for you.

A student rally collects signatures for express support for the recent elimination of Caltech’s International Student Programs and removal of Parandeh Kia, director of the ISP, last Friday.

BAMBOO TEA HOUSE
Tea as a way of life
700 E. Colorado
Pasadena
Across from Vroman’s Bookstore
(626) 577-0707

STUDENT TRAVEL web fares

London........$321
Paris...........$363
Amsterdam.....$376
Rome...........$425

Fare is roundtrip from Los Angeles. Subject to change and availability. Tax not included. Restrictions and blackouts apply.

16 North Mentor Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91106
(626) 577-0077

HONDA & ACURA
Accurate AutoWorks
Honda, Acura, Nissan, & Toyota Specialists
Serving the Caltech community since 1994
(626) 58-HONDA 584-6632 FAX (626) 792-5555
26 North Hill Avenue, Pasadena, California 91106

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The Color Orange: Agents and Alerts Living in Fear and Paranoia Can Detrimental Consequences

By JEAN-PAUL REVEL

So here we go back to Orange as recommended by the Defense Intelligence Agency in urging the recent suicide bombings in Morocco and Turkey.

Until a few days ago I had never registered the whole scale of the terror alerts from low to guarded, elevated and finally, severe. Green, blue, yellow, orange and red. Not quite the right sequence for the visual spectrum, but then these guys are not physicists. I guess green is a more appropriate color for "low" than blue should be. I guess.

I am not at all reassured, however, that the basis for these ratings, being as it is specific information, is particularly useful. I had a feeling there was much telephone chatter or other warnings. McVeigh's bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, and Theodore Kaczynski, the Unabomber, span a long time in silence. Would not smart terrorists attack at a time when people are less likely to expect it, when the terror alert system was showing a low rating of green?

An aggressive defensive move on the part of potential targets would be to communicate they are vigilant. That we are not alone even though we may feel isolated. We are not physicists. I guess green is a more appropriate color for "low" than blue should be. I guess.

"You are not alone even though you might have to deal with different people."

There are many who are very fearful of the consequences of the recent recognition of Student Affairs. International students in particular have expressed their concern about the IHC's role in the International Student Programs they have attended. It seems to me they have been a person, they felt, they had been a friend, a supporter, someone who knew of their special problems and how to do with them. Their apprehensions are no doubt strengthened by the series of death threats since September 11.

As another person, who did not dare to make himself known, said:

"I don't know what, however, is that there are many on campus, who would hope that students and professors help to foster a better adjustment to life in this part of the world.

It had to learn many of these things when I came here as a grad student many years ago. I did not know how to go about this, how to find my way around. I was uncertain whether or not there were others who were taking classes, right now and so acquire a special importance.

"IHC" to "Housing Committee" in a commitment resolution, since the IHC is rather busy. The Housing Committee is technically supposed to deal with only housing, but it can certainly try to extend its hegemony into other areas. A local administrator, leader Manuel Garcia may have no excuse himself due to conflict of interest, being also CRC co-chair, but I'm sure the alternates will bear the mantle of maintaining "accountability" in ASCIT.

On a side note, Tom Fletcher e-mailed some "Course Registration Advice" to about 50 students that he knew well, telling them not to be afraid of "nurture['their leadership']," he recommends that they take BMEC 146, a class in organizational design. If you did not get one of these e-mails, do not worry, you may have leadership qualities, but you can still sign up for the class if you wish. The e-mail was written in December and probably not going to be available any longer, unless Tom Fletcher can get more people to sign up and keep the class going.

Leaders who strive to make a difference and consolidate power have always been idolized by their people.

Are You Represented? Your Role in the IHC's Mission

By JESSE SUEN

It may be apparent to most Caltech undergraduates that political activism is not a prominent feature of the school. In fact, Caltech is currently ranked 17th in the "Electoral? What Election?"? cat- egory of the Princeton Review's The Best 345 Colleges.

While various positions on faculty-student committees, the IHC and ASCIT would tend to encourage students to make a difference, the recurring trend seems to be of a relatively small group of students occupying multiple positions on these committees while the rest of the undergraduate population complacently, even apathetically, ac­ cept the changes made by this group. With a few notable excep­ tions, most proceedings of the "rul­ing bodies" fail to arouse interest among the students.

As some may—or more likely may not—have noticed, a petition was started over the weekend to re­ verse a recent IHC ruling. The rul­ ing will enforce a previous policy adopted by the IHC two years ago, which restricts members of multiple houses to participating in only one process.

There are strong arguments both for and against this policy as it re­lates to room picks; I will not, how­ ever, discuss them here. Instead, I would like to point out the absence of student input in a decision which affects virtually all undergraduates, directly or indirectly.

Good luck to all ... A bonus

Living in Fear and Paranoia Can Detrimental Consequences

By LIBIN ZHANG

Our beloved ASCIT President Tom Fletcher has written extensively about the need for accountability in student committees. He has proactively expanded the power of ASCIT to govern at­ tendance in these student-faculty commit­ tee meetings. It is now the responsibility of the Faculty-Student Inter­ committee (IHC) to address the issue.

Being involved in one committee, I have few problems with additional work for the sake of accountability. What lingering doubts I had in my mind were erased by inter­ views with committee leaders, interviewers and corporate financial scandals. While I suspect the com­ mittee is a trained leader, the ASCIT president probably knows more about modern issues than I do.

In fact, I think we should extend more credit even for those of us who have carefully drafted the follow­ ing resolution for our student gov­ ernment.

Committee Oversight Resolution

Section 1: There is a need for su­ pervision of ASCIT Board of Di­ rector (BoD) members for them to be accountable to the community.

Section 2: Each BoD member is required to submit to the IHC short written summaries of all meetings he attends in his capacity as a di­ rector. These summaries are to be disseminated to the student body via whatever means are deemed necessary. Guidelines for sum­ mary: list of students in attendance; list of agenda topics covered; any additional explanation of topics covered deemed necessary by the representatives.

Section 3: Failure to attend and/or submit summaries from two or more meetings of the BoD will be grounds for removal by the IHC. A failure to submit summaries from two or more meetings of the BoD will be grounds for the ASCIT president to write a letter of explanation, how are we supposed to have ac­ countability in ASCIT.

This way, the ASCIT BoD is fully "accountable" to the student body and none of our leaders can hope to skip on more than one meeting. While the multiple reports may seem a bit redundant, they won't be read anyway.

"Accountability" can be extended even further. The ASCIT BoD should pass a resolution forcing house presidents and lead­ ers to report after every House Exec­ cum committee meeting; failure to do so twice would be grounds for removal by ASCIT. For example, the Page Town Council, which President Secretary was replaced by an ASCIT ap­ pointee, preferably from the same house. If the President or Vice-President could not make house meetings twice, they would be grounds for removal.

A simple resolution, how are we supposed to have ac­ countable and responsible house government? Sure, we may lose some autonomy, but that is a small price to pay.

Bork-style purists may object to the fact that the IHC does not have actual power over the ASCIT BoD. We can just wait until Reso­ lution 26 passes, so the technol­ogies like "jurisdiction," "separation of powers" and "limitations" will disappear from government vocab­ulary. Actually, I may have to change

May 26, 2003

THE CALIFORNIA TECH COMMENTARY

By L. Zhang

The California Tech. courtesy of L. Zhang

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The IHC Today: Staffing, Multiple House Card Picks

By JEREMY PITTS

As per Tom Fletcher’s model, I have decided to interminably subscribe to the Articles to the Tech to let everyone know what’s new with the IHC. If you are only reading this article because you expect to see a meaningful headline at the end, you should probably stop reading now.

Student Affairs Restructuring

The restructuring of student affairs did not come as a complete shock to us, as there has been a buzz of it for some time now, but I think we were all surprised by the scope and speed of the change. The IHC had actually written a letter to Marco Marshall to whom we know many of you are speaking. He said that part of the reason for the restructuring was to allow the IHC to focus more on its core mission of representing the student body. The IHC will work to ensure that all of these new responsibilities are performed in a way that is transparent. As of his “What’s Wrong” article, the truth is that our self-governance be preserved.

First, communications: we feel that effective communications between students and administrators is crucial and that student input should be actively sought and respected. We also suggested that the idea of having advisor office hours is a good chance for freshmen to talk to administrators, instead of only those who are on the IHC side. I feel ASCIT having access to them.

Second, disciplinary workloads: we are very concerned that some campus administrators, such as Tom Mannion, will be overwhelmed with their new responsibilities and will not be able to do their jobs. We are going to work as hard and efficiently as we can to ensure that the best interests of the student body are served. We will work hard to ensure that the best interests of the student body are served.

The IHC will work to ensure that all of these issues are considered and that the student body is represented. The IHC will work hard to ensure that all of these new responsibilities are performed in a way that is transparent. As of his “What’s Wrong” article, the truth is that our self-governance be preserved.

Ditch Day is one of our oldest traditions and this week I’m writing about our seven best traditions of the year. There are other schools with honor systems and other traditions, with demanding curricula, but there is no other school in the country with seven houses quite like ours. Preserving the student houses should be one of our highest priorities as a student body, but we’ve come dangerously close to jeopardizing the house system in the past few years. Digging in our bowls and crossing our fingers isn’t the way forward. This week, I ask, “What is wrong with the house system?”

I thought about this a lot during my years at Caltech and I’ve come to realize that all problems with the house system come from the beginning: rotations are something serious. Most students think that there can’t be much wrong with rotations because it has been doing fine for so long.

There is no other school in the country with seven houses quite like ours.

The truth, however, is that our present rotation system is a bastardization of the carefully outlined process of the past. Former ASCIT President Eric Tuttle put together a detailed study of the last time rotation was reinvented and encouraged all students to read his work in Appendix C of the TURL. The student problem with rotation is that even if we wanted to change, it would be difficult because of the process to change things. Every year, the IHC asks whether or not the picks procedure should be made public. I recently realized that some members of the IHC take this statement differently from me. I check yes because I would like to see the full process, even how each freshman is picked. I think the picks procedure should be made public. Everyone has to participate. While houses can always tolerate a few people, if enough people want it, the system breaks down when a freshman hates the house.

Perhaps freshmen could be asked about it more than other houses and face the possibility of not being picked. Maybe freshmen are the only ones who can change things. As per Tom Fletcher’s model, I have decided to interminably subscribe to the Articles to the Tech to let everyone know what’s new with the IHC. If you are only reading this article because you expect to see a meaningful headline at the end, you should probably stop reading now.

The house system has been a strong point of Caltech life, but is it right for everyone? Ted Jou ’03 examines the question in this week’s rendition of his “What’s Wrong” series.

What’s Wrong with the House System?

The house system has been a strong point of Caltech life, but is it right for everyone? Ted Jou ’03 examines the question in this week’s rendition of his “What’s Wrong” series.
Michael Alvarez, professor of political science at the California Institute of Technology, has been appointed to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) California State Plan Advisory Committee.

The purpose of the committee is to seek public input and provide policy guidance to assist the secretary of state of California in drafting the state's initial plan for compliance with federal mandates contained in HAVA. The 23-member committee is composed of "individuals who are selected for their expertise, knowledge and because they are stakeholders in the elections community," said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley.

The Help America Vote Act will fundamentally alter the way elections are conducted in California and across the nation. Signed into law on October 29, 2002, HAVA is creating a new federal agency, the Election Assistance Commission, to serve as a national clearinghouse on election information and to provide federal standards for voting systems. HAVA will require all states to implement sweeping changes by next year—during the presidential election cycle—to ensure preparedness and efficiency for future elections.

Alvarez was a team member and co-director of the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project, which analyzed the voting technology system in the United States after the controversial 2000 presidential election and made recommendations for improvements to the American voting system.

According to Alvarez, "The Caltech/MIT team was involved in the development of HAVA and most of the recommendations in our 2001 report found their way into HAVA. It is exciting now to be a part of the process that will make the provisions of HAVA a reality for Californians..."
An underclassmen hammers a concrete-filled bucket to uncover a hidden clue.

A pinata in the form of President David Baltimore stands ready to be swatted by students' bats. The stack's members were ultimately rewarded with candy inside.

Fear the Penguins members build a Rube-Goldberg device to trap a polar bear. Components included mouse traps and marbles, which eventually were used to drop the trap's door on the bear.

"He said they'd be done a couple hours ago!" Members of Ricketts' Twilight stack take a break from their brute-force efforts to extract a key from a concrete block.

"This better not be lunch!" Students in Blacker's Fear the Penguins stack find a bucket of macaroni.

"They aren't supposed to break this early!" Mario Kart stack members fix their carts.

After a water balloon ambush, a free-for-all with shaving cream ensues as part of this Fleming House stack.

Students wash and cool off in the Gene Pool after a shaving cream battle minutes earlier.

"He said they'd be done a couple hours ago!" Members of Ricketts' Twilight stack take a break from their brute-force efforts to extract a key from a concrete block.
Prufrock Team Takes APSU's Mushroom Title

By DEBORAH WILLIAMS

Three undergraduate students—Po-Shen Loh '04, Victor Thai '04 and Joe Wason '05—recently earned a record 300 scholarships worth approximately $39 million dollars.

The Goldwater Foundation is one of the premier undergraduate awards in the field of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering.

The Goldwater Scholarship is one of the premier undergraduate awards in the field of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering.

The foundation, to date, has awarded 3,962 scholarships worth $300 million dollars. The trustees plan to award about 300 scholarships for the next academic year.

Among some of the wares cooked up this year at the Asian Pacific Student Union's Iron Chef Competition was Norimake sushi. Defending champ, Team 4 won this year's Best Overall title with its seared mushroom dish.

Friday Rally Draws Groundswell Of Support for Dismissed ISP Director

By JANET ZHOU

Speaking from their hearts, over a dozen students, alumni, and postdocs voiced their opinions at a rally last Friday in support of Parandeh Kia, who was recently relieved of her dual roles as director of International Student Programs (ISP) and Women in Engineering, Science and Technology.

The rally, held in front of the Red Door during the noon lunch hour, attracted an estimated 200 to 250 people. “We were quite pleased with the turnout,” said Ms. Kia, who turned up, especially since we had only advertised through e-mail and by word of mouth. Several graduate students Daniel Wagenaar, one of whom wore a homemade pink and white sign that read, “Support for Kia at the rally. “It was important enough to take a day off work,” she said.

In a letter dated May 13 sent to students, Students Affairs Vice President Dwight Marshak said the trustees had detailed decisions of significant restructuring within the Student Affairs' administration, including the elimination of the Office of Residence Life and the elimination of directly elected student Graduates. As a result, Kia will no longer have a seat in the Chancellor's cabinet, effective at the end of May.

Postdoctoral scholar Melanie Beavers said that the Embedded Politics in the Student Affairs’ administration, including the elimination of the Office of Residence Life and the elimination of directly elected student Graduates. As a result, Kia will no longer have a seat in the Chancellor's cabinet, effective at the end of May.

"Parandeh, and the ISP she has built up over the years, is one of the few things that puts a human touch to the administration,” she said. "We hope that these changes will be for the better, for the students.

"Parandeh has been the core of the Caltech international community for over 10 years," she said.

One alumna even made the trip down from San Jose to show his support for Kia at the rally. "It was important enough to take a day off work and drive down here, she said Hao Li '98. "I’m probably the best student advocate on campus and one of the most dedicated students we have ever met," said graduate student Sarah Helsihon, speaking on behalf of Women in Engineering, Science and Technology.

Added Lisa Wang '04 on behalf of the Caltech C, "Parandeh has been the core of the Caltech international community for over 10 years."

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