Amidst New Faces, Facilities, Plans For Future Mark Change-fraight Year

By MATTHEW WALKER

2003 proved a memorable year. There were the usual changes: scattered renovations around campus, new student leadership in ASCIT and the BoD, a slew of Student-Faculty Conference-inspired plans for academic improvement. But there were also deeper shifts: new administrative faces and philosophies, the dismantling of an entire department and President Baltimore's decision to finally pull out of an unpopular decision.

The year began in style with the opening of a long-anticipated new biology facility. The Broad Center will specialize in magnetic imaging, computational molecular biology, and neurology. A $20 million gift will make construction of the center possible.

There were the usual changes: scattered renovations around campus, trusts since 1993, said, "Just as the 20th century was a period of major advancement for chemistry and physics, the 21st century will be the golden age for biology. For that reason, my family and I are proud to support Caltech's scientists and their groundbreaking work that will doubt take place in this building."

This year was a big year for Caltech and magazine rankings. As usual, Caltech earned a high spot in the U.S. News and World Report ranking of top universities in the country, coming in fourth. More surprisingly, Caltech was ranked 15th on Seventeen's ranking of "The 100 Coolest Colleges." Seventeen describes the list as "the coolest schools were girls can get the best experience." Some of the factors involved in the ranking included professors, safety, partying and shopping. Rounding out the list is the appearance of Martha-Helene Stapleton '03 in Glamour's "Top Ten College Women." Stapleton, who majors in physics, was formerly ASCIT president, received the McKiciney Award for poetry and worked with a Nobel laureate at the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Physics. The other top ten included a young lady who overcame a heart attack at age 16 and one who spent a summer in Tanzania teaching people about HIV prevention.

Margo Marshak became the first female and first full-time vice president of Student Affairs at Caltech. Marshak took over from interim Vice President Gary Lorden and came to Caltech after spending a year as vice president and dean of students at the University of Chicago. She was also vice president for student affairs at New York University for 10 years and she spent time at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the University of San Diego School of Law. She switched to a full-time Vice President of Student Affairs was made on a recommendation of an external committee chaired by Tom Anderson.

October 25 marked the start of a massive, five-year fundraising campaign. The Caltech Campaign Celebration, where the campaign was kicked off, was a ceremony hosted by Emmy Award-winning television journalist Charlie Rose. With a goal of $1.4 billion, the campaign targets various projects including a new nanofabrication facilities and a new astrophysics building. There are also plans to build a telescope three times larger than any in existence. President David Baltimore, "To realize the effect that Caltech had on them, saying "I learned at Caltech how to work. I learned that you had better not try to get by on your intellectual ability" and "Harvard thinks they're the best university in the world; Caltech knows that it is."

Renowned Irish Author Seamus Deane visited Caltech in early November as the first Words Matter writer-in-residence. Deane, who is an instructor at University College, Dublin and Keough professor of Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame, visited classes, met with faculty and gave lectures. He brought this message to Caltech: "People should know that the study of humanities involves a serious intellectual effort." Deane was born in Northern Ireland and received his education from Queen's University, Belfast and Cambridge University. His first novel, Reading in the Dark, won the Irish Times Fiction Award and the Guardian Prize for Fiction, and it was a finalist for the Booker Prize.

The year closes today with commencement ceremonies. It was a year of changes—of new faces, of new leadership, of somber goodbyes and, for many, of new beginnings.
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she said, "if I could make it an event where students could interact with faculty and alumni. I began to want to do not just a social event, but an event with a positive effect on the community; the real reason I'm having the event is because students love Caltech." About 40 different faculty and staff members showed up for the event, and there were about 30 students at any given time. They told stories about Caltech, things they liked, and some they didn't.

Biologist professor and department executive officer Pamela Bjorkman was awarded a Max Planck Research Award for her study of the molecular mechanisms of the human immune system. The award is given to candidates that have contributed "exceptional and internationally recognized achievements" in one of six categories of scientific achievement and comes with a cash prize. The selection committee gave Bjorkman the award based on her study of major histocompatibility complex molecules and how their structure affects their function. Bjorkman came to Caltech in 1989.

Fiction writer Michael Chicketon spoke in January in Beckman Auditorium, giving a talk entitled "Do Aliens Cause Global Warming?" A Michelin Distinguished Speaker, Chicketon contended that there are many cases of misrepresentation of science facts to political policy. He cited a number of examples, including second-hand smoke, nuclear winter, SETI and global warming as places where political consensus outweighed scientific rigor in making public decisions. This sort of easy acceptance of outlandish ideas stemmed from when the search for more planets in January in Beckman Auditorium, giving a talk entitled "Do Aliens Cause Global Warming?" A Michelin Distinguished Speaker, Chicketon contended that there are many cases of misrepresentation of science facts to political policy. He cited a number of examples, including second-hand smoke, nuclear winter, SETI and global warming as places where political consensus outweighed scientific rigor in making public decisions. This sort of easy acceptance of outlandish ideas stemmed from when the search for more planets in 2003:
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the letter also informed the house that it would be charged $5000 for additional security when prefrosh arrived and threatened to disrupt the house if there were any more problems at the house. The violations stemmed from unhappiness with an Institute implemented, and Yitz-Lang ordered the house to remove the Ricketts fire pot. Failure of the Student Affairs Office to follow up on a promise to help replace the fire pot with a legal alternative exacerbated the problem. The order to remove the fire pot led to an internal conflict in Ricketts over the destruction of the pot. The $5000 charge and threat of disbandment caused an outcry among students. There were several Ricketts protests in response to Margo Marshak's letter. Perhaps the most visible was Ricketts staking of a shantytown that emphasized the threat and consequences of house disbandment. Ricketts also sent security guards, who were actually Ricketts members, to protect Margo Marshak's office for two days to try to underscore how ridiculous it was to assign extra guards to Ricketts, who watched over an empty courtyard.

Prefrosh Weekend was shortened by a day this year to the dismay of many. The lack of exposure of prefrosh to house social events was the major concern. Since prefrosh were slated to leave on Saturday, there would be less time for houses to entertain in their prefrosh social events. This year's Feynman Prize winner was Applied Math Professor Niles Pierce. Pierce, who recently taught the first-ever course at ACM 95, was a clear favorite for the award. Pierce received the award for his "enthusiasm, dedication, and charisma in teaching both undergraduates and graduate students in Applied Mathematics through ACM 95." "It took some convincing to get me to teach [ACM 95] the first time," said Pierce, "because I'd heard a lot of stories about how much it takes out of the professor." The Feynman Prize is meant to motivate professors to make their classes interesting. The prize is made possible through an endowment and contributions by Robert E. Paradise and Mr. and Mrs. William R. Hart.

The second Student-Faculty Conference in as many years was good news for professors teach better. Students didn't find too many things to disagree about, although some conference called it a "fiasco." The geology and planetary sciences division was sung out and praised as a bastion of communication between students and faculty. Discussions at the conference included planetary science, atmospheric science, and astronomy of the CS major, restructuring of CS advising, and various other student leaders.

The Department of Neurobiology and Behavior provided a number of prizes and opportunities to help professors teach better. A "Gastroenteritis" virus struck on the quad during Prefrosh Weekend. Estimates range between 100 to 200 affected students, as well as some faculty, staff, graduate students and even prefrosh. Symptoms included nausea, vomiting and diarrhea in most students and a fever in some. The sickness began to pass within about a day. The health center prescribed a self-care regimen of rest, fluids and Tylenol. Caltech Auxiliary and Business Services provided Gatorade and saltine crackers to all of the houses and CDS prepared dinners of chicken soup to help quicken recoveries. Although food poisoning was initially suspected, there was no "common denominator" according to Health Center director Stuart Miller, which led the Health Center to suspect a virus was the cause. May 13 brought a surprising announcement from Vice President Margo Marshak. Letters to student mailboxes in the morning read, "The office of Residence Affairs has been eliminated." The result of both restructuring of the Student Affairs department and budget cuts, the loss of Residence Life surprised students and the administration's action. Organizers estimated the attendance of over 200 people who showed up to both support Kla and thank her for her role.
Saddam H. Alive! Makes Surprise Appearance at Fleming Party

FLEMING HOUSE, CA--Saddam Hussein made a surprise appearance at Fleming House's annual BFP interhouse party several weeks ago. When the ball was dropped at midnight to signal the new year in New York, Saddam jumped out of the Cup O' Noodles backdrop. He was reportedly shooting an empty paintball gun and yelling “Long live Iraq! Long live Saddam! I am the unconditional ruler of the world! Bush cannot defeat me!”

Some partygoers expressed amazement at Saddam's arrival, while others (mostly non-Techers) simply appeared confused. The dancing and jubilations then commenced uninterrupted as Saddam joined in the celebrations, doing his signature jig, and even dancing with several girls.

"Saddam is such a hottie," squealed Sarah Brightman '06, "I can't believe I got to touch his moustache!" Tony Nannini '03 agreed. "I'm so excited! This is great! Saddam is here!" he said as he jumped up and down.

When questioned about his visit, Saddam said, “After months of war, I just wanted to party. Caltech was the place to do it. I've heard that Caltech throws some awesome parties and that there are multitudes of beautiful women here."

Saddam proceeded to stay until the end of the party, socializing with the bartenders and the dancers. He befriended several Flems, leading them on a run around the courtyard waving the Iraqi flag. He even shook the hand of Dario Amodei '05, anti-war advocate, and thanked him for his support.

Saddam was found the next day passed out in Evan and Igor's room.

Web Registration to Reduce Registrar-Office-Girl Sightings, Campus Males Upset

PASADENA, CA- With the announcement of a planned web registration system, male students across the Caltech campus have been dismayed at the loss of opportunities to see the Registrar-Office-Girl (ROG).

Barry Stevensen, '06, expressed a common sentiment, saying, “the girl at the registrar's office is hot. AND she's nice. But the only times I get to see her is when I go to the registrar's office.” Stevensen added, “luckily, with the current system I can go there at least 3 times a term.”

While the ROG is sometimes seen outside the registrar's office, the majority of sightings take place in the office itself. With the new plan, students could lose all reasons to go to registrar's office, including turning in registration forms, and even adding and dropping courses.

When asked for comment, registrar Judith Goodstein told us she was concerned by the fact that a large percent of the student population finds the registrar office's only redeeming quality the ROG. She said she looks forward to the new system, noting that "the remarkably high number of classes that are added and dropped within the same week will probably drop drastically."

A rally is planned for Friday, June 13th from noon until 2, outside the Red Door Cafe to protest the plan. “This is just another example of how the registrar's office screws everything up," said Zach Garrett, '04, the rally organizer. "Hopefully, we will send them a strong message that we will not stand for this." If the rally does not work, Garrett plans to sit-in everyday in the Registrar's office. However, Garrett's roommate, Julian Trowbridge, '05, tells us Garrett goes to the registrar's office every day as it is.

Some students, however, are still holding out hope. Says Jimmy Chen, '04, "this is the registrar's office we're talking about. I have faith that they won't be able to get this to work."
Al-Sahaf Joins Caltech Student Affairs

PASADENA, CA—Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, the former Iraqi Information Minister and popularly known as Comical Ali, has accepted a position at Student Affairs at the California Institute of Technology. With his trademark beret, glasses, and grinning face, Al-Sahaf had become a world-wide cult figure due to his wild claims and colourful language. Although his exact title is currently undetermined, Al-Sahaf will serve as a public relations mouthpiece for Student Affairs.

Al-Sahaf was born near Karbala, Iraq, and served as Iraqi Ambassador, Foreign Minister, and Information Minister for the Ba'ath Party. Due to a regime change, however, Al-Sahaf discovered that he needed employment with more job security. He declined offers of employment from California Governor Gray Davis and the Boston Archdiocese of the Catholic Church; He settled on the world’s best playground for math and science, away from the dangerous world of politics. On April 8, a day after the fall of Bagdad, Al-Sahaf made his last televised appearance and departed for the California Institute of Technology.

The California Tech was lucky enough to have an exclusive talk with the newest addition to Student Affairs. When asked about the recent student protests over unpopular administration decisions, Al-Sahaf responded, “What protests? What decisions? The petitions are a complete illusion. They are planted by enemy agent provocateurs. What do the students think we live in, a democracy?”

Al-Sahaf also said that the administrators had made every student’s viewpoint into consideration, and that the decision to remove Parandeh Kia had ‘trivial’ impact.

“We will push those crooks, those mercenaries back into the swamp,” said Al-Sahaf, metaphorically referring to the few student leaders who dared to challenge authority. He estimated their numbers to be only a handful, and described them as ‘immoral’ and ‘criminals.’

“Can you assure us that those villains will recognize, will discover in appropriate time in the future how stupid they are and how they are pretending things which have never taken place,” he added, with a slight suggestion of a smirk on his face.

He was dismissive of photos of a pro-Kia rally showing a diverse assembly of Caltech community members: “These images are not in front of the Red Door Cafe,” he said. “From what I glimpsed, those chairs, which you saw in the images, are located in the north of Broad, where there was absolutely no gathering. There is no presence of student activism at Caltech.

Sensing skepticism at his outlandish claims, Al-Sahaf reassured us that the administration will never surrender or back down on any decision. Momentarily lapsing into the memories of his past job, he mumbled, “The International Students are going to surrender or be burned in their tanks. They will surrender. It is they who will surrender.”

Al-Sahaf wished to give a final message for the people out here. “We are not afraid,” he proclaimed, adding paternalistically, “And don’t you be afraid.”

Wouldn’t rotation be more fun, er, a more accurate representation of the houses and of the frosh if each house had challenges?...
Yoo, whazzup? L-Dawg is here and is one bad ass muthaf*cka. You don't f*ck with L-Dawg cause I be the muthaf*ckin' head TA fo' the electrical engineering department at the Georgia Institute of Technol­ogy. L-Dawg don't give a crap! I be the boss, got the power, and I'm the master of the universe. You don't f*ck with L-Dawg cause I be the master of the universe. I be the one who makes the rules and breaks the laws. I be the one who gets away with everything. I be the one who is untouchable. I be the one who is invincible.

Someone Really Lives in Dabney Room 48

PASADENA, CA - Yesterday, after two terms of suspension, someone emerged from room 48. Witnesses confirm that the emergence was unexpected, and many are left wondering what this means for the future.

L-Dawg

Don’t Mess With EE’s, Punk Ass

“Lionel, It has come to the schools attention that you have unlicensed, pirated software running on the EE computers. We ask that you immediately remove and delete all copies of illegal soft­ware and I have it installed on all the double E computers. I got it off the street from one of my homies sain’ bootleg programs, you knows it ain’t legal. Well this muthaf*cka gets word that I have this sh*t and he sends me a notice: ‘I tell the bitch to get out of my ‘Pico’ face before I burn him wit’ da Solderin’ Iron of Death.

Don’t Mess With EE’s, Punk Ass

Yo, whazzup? L-Dawg is here and is one bad ass muthaf*cka. You don’t f*ck with L-Dawg cause I be the muthaf*ckin’ head TA fo’ the electrical engineering department at the Georgia Institute of Technol­gy. L-Dawg don’t give a crap! I be the boss, got the power, and I’m the master of the universe. You don’t f*ck with L-Dawg cause I be the master of the universe. I be the one who makes the rules and breaks the laws. I be the one who gets away with everything. I be the one who is untouchable. I be the one who is invincible.

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Boyfriend "Name-Dropped" into Physics Conversation

PASADENA, CA—A junior physics major at Caltech was caught off-guard Thursday when a freshman economics major named Candice alluded to her boyfriend at UCLA during a conversation about quantum entanglement. "I didn't realize what had happened at first, and then I'm like, woah, wait a second. Did she say 'density matrix drive' or 'Dennis's mad sex drive'?" said Richard O'Brian, a member of Blacker house.

After having two strawberry daiquiris to loosen his inhibitions, O'Brian meandered over to group of freshman girls. He met Candice's eyes for several seconds before going to find a shot of something.

Friend Michael Cleef, '04, said, "Richard's a pretty shady guy once he gets going on the phone about something and starts listing off all the names of the people he knows, and it's not even true. He's got that whole 'call me up' thing going on.

Cleef had been noticing O'Brian's furtive glances and went in discretely to 'talk him-up' to Candice.

After reportedly half-convincing her that O'Brian was "funny," Leef had little trouble introducing the two, who had both become highly intoxicated. "She seemed pretty interested in what I was saying. For once someone was responding to my penetrating questions, such as 'How does one come to terms with Bell's inequality violations?' or 'Is the qubit really the most fundamental quantity of information?'" said O'Brian.

Each of her replies contained careful allusions to her current boyfriend, that she was STILL with. "I mean, he's a very hairy guy, you know. He really likes to rip his sleeves up and talk to you. Isn't that cute?"

According to Cleef, O'Brian replied, "I gotta puke..." and ran to throw up in the garbage can.

O'Brian returned a few seconds later, apologized, and began explaining the black-hole information paradox.

Satan Disavows Affiliation with Ricketts House, Firepot

In a press conference Monday held atop his flaming brimstone palace, the Prince of Darkness cast light upon his relationship with Ricketts house. "I am not now, nor have I ever been a supporter or contributor to any of Ricketts' actions. I personally cannot condone such unfunny endangerment of both the community and their souls." Lucifer went on to express distaste with the current state of worship, "I assure you that your polytheism is simply not "entertaining.""

Capricorn: (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) They're not the most fun-loving people, but they do have a sense of humor. Sometimes it's hard to find, but when you do, they're hilarious.

Aquarius: (Jan 20-Feb. 18) They're always looking for new ideas and ways to express themselves. They're not afraid to try new things and they're always up for a challenge.

PISCES: (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) They're sensitive and artistic. They love to create and they're always working on something new.

This picture has no relation to anything...it's just strange. And it's not without a bit of humor either. Who can say that about a picture?

Q & A

Dear RCSPTCGG

I'm getting disillusioned with life as an undergrad at Caltech these days. It seems like more and more often I hear stories about the administration not listening to the plight of students, and our efforts always seem to be pointless. What can be done to make things better here?

Sincerely, A Tired Student

Dear Research CS Project That Constructs Grammatical Gibberish,

I'm really excited about the work you're doing! I'm wondering if you could do a little more on my behalf, though. I'm trying to learn some new programming languages and I'm having a hard time finding good examples. Can you help me out?

Best, A Coder

Editors' Disclaimer:

The Olive is a completely fictional work modeled after The Onion. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, and we apologize to anyone who may have taken offense at any of the content herein. The Olive is a division of The Riveter, an annual issue put out by The Tech as a spoof on a well-known publication.
It's a Wrap! The Caltech Burrito

Reflections on the Anatomy of This Year's Flowering Class

By JEAN-PAUL REVEL

That's it, a wrap. The school year that began just a few weeks ago, it feels to me, is over already. I real-
ize that time may have passed much more slowly for you, my readers, what with the incessant demands made by profs trying to impart all of their knowledge while they have you in their sway.

The Frosh are not so fresh any-
more. As you read, with their finals getting turned in, they are growing into newly minted sophomores, those hybrid creatures still lacking some of the wisdom, sophos, of the junior, but not yet rid of the mores-
isms of the frosh. The juniors are just that, not quite grown up yet. They have gained much in wisdom however, and rarely try to over-
load. In just a year they'll tackle the quasihilfully grown up state of seniority.

And of course the seniors will be feted, toasted, diploma-ed and sent on their way. Everything is getting ready to launch them off. To be honest I don't know what kind of vegetable they will make....

Not to worry. We are in Califor-
nia. The grass has been grown thick and green, and lo and behold this morning I found that the Rocke-
rs were the seniors, their family and friends will assemble, was not just lush and green, but also sprawling delicate mushrooms. A good omen, I am sure. The seniors will be grown-up mushroom-rooms—and I had this urge to name them, to "discover" what they were, to learn about them. A whole slew of others with sugges-
tions. There will be beauti-
ful carpets of blooms under each tree come the end of the week.

"Just as seeds of Dan-
delion are the future of Taraxacumkind, so are you the future of us all."

Actually the specimens I exam-
ined looked a bit like the "Dance Caps" in the illustrations, but I elimin-
ated them at first because of course we have no need of danc-
e caps around here. Come to think of it, may be these are all the unem-
ployed Dance caps that were strewn around the lawn. There are shaggy
dunes walking around on Campus, but the pictures of that mushroom on the mentioned web site does not match at all.

Not to worry. We are in Califor-
nia and the Atlas shows Mushrooms from Ontario, so the species extant may be different. And in any case they will be either mowed down or fairly trampled before commence-
ment...

But the signs are in the air, with the painters reblanching the wall of the Auditorium, and cleaning the dish under the two fountains guard-
ing the entry, while the imperturbable Falun Gong sit in meditation. The mornings have been cool and pleasant sensation when alcohol is consumed along with the mush-
rooms, or even several days after....

The mornings have been cool and pleasant sensation when alcohol is consumed along with the mush-
rooms, or even several days after....

I discovered that the ge-
dandelion, so are the 
now no dandelions in the south-
ernhemisphere! Another factoid to round up your Caltech education.

So what can I really say about what hope your Caltech education does for you, both those who are in instance of scattering to the winds, and those who will return for more of the same, even for those who decide that the grass is greener else-
where—see first paragraph, hard to beat our greenery, but go ahead, try it, and I hope profit from the expo-

It is of course important to take away all the factual knowledge, the foundation on which to build stu-
pendous careers. You will most of all, contribute to our understand-

"A remarkable book.

John F. Nash, Jr.
1994 Nobel Prize winner in Economics

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—Scientific American

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JUNE 13, 2003 3
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At Caltech, there is an unwritten rule that says, “It’s not about what you do, but about who you do it with.” This has been true for me throughout my time at Caltech. The community here is unlike any other I’ve ever been a part of, and it has truly been the people who have made my time here so special.

I’ve been involved in many different organizations, from the Astronomy Club to the Debate Team. Each of these groups has contributed to my growth as a person and has helped me develop skills that I will carry with me throughout my life. I’ve learned about the importance of teamwork, communication, and leadership. These are skills that I will use in my future endeavors.

But, in the end, it’s the friends that you make at Caltech that really matter. The memories that we create together will last a lifetime. I’m grateful for the friendships that I’ve formed and the experiences that I’ve shared with these amazing people. I’ll always cherish the time that I’ve spent at Caltech and the people who have made it so special.

Thank you, Caltech, for all that you have given me. I’ll miss you more than words can express.
Get Involved, Cherish The Memories, Enjoy the Ride

A Senior's Retrospective: Recollections, Advice

By MARCUS WILLIAMS

June is a bittersweet time. The end of one year and the beginning of another. For many, it is a time of transition and change. It is a time when one looks back on their past and considers their future. As I sit here, reflecting on my time at Caltech, I cannot help but feel a sense of nostalgia. The memories that I have made over the past four years have been some of the most significant of my life. They have shaped who I am today and I am grateful for every one of them.

As I look back on my time at Caltech, I am struck by how much has changed. The world that I entered as a freshman is not the same as the world that I leave as a senior. The technological landscape has changed dramatically. The way we communicate, learn, and live has evolved. Yet, despite these changes, some things remain constant. The bonds of friendship, the pursuit of knowledge, and the desire to make a difference are timeless.

When I arrived at Caltech, I was excited about the opportunities that lay ahead. I was eager to learn, to grow, and to make a contribution. I am grateful for the support and guidance that I received from my professors, my classmates, and my family. They have helped me to become a better person and to realize my potential.

I am also grateful for the experiences that I have had. From the challenges of academic life to the joys of extracurricular activities, each experience has taught me something valuable. I have learned to be resilient, to persevere, and to never give up. I have learned to be open-minded, to be curious, and to be willing to take risks.

As I look forward to my future, I carry with me the lessons that I have learned. I know that I will face challenges and that I will make mistakes. But I am confident that I will be able to handle them because I have been trained to think critically and to work collaboratively. I know that I can make a difference because I have seen the power of collective action.

One of the things that I have learned is that success is not just about personal achievement. It is about making a positive impact on the world. I believe that we have the power to change things for the better. I believe that we can make a difference and that we should use our gifts to do so.

As I say goodbye to Caltech, I am filled with a sense of sadness and a sense of excitement. I am sad to leave this place that has been my home for the past four years. But I am also excited to see what the future holds. I am excited to see what I can achieve and to see how the world will change because of my actions.

I am grateful for the memories that I have made and the lessons that I have learned. I am grateful for the support and guidance that I have received. I am grateful for the opportunities that I have had. I am grateful for the world that I have been a part of. And I am grateful for the life that I have lived. Thank you, Caltech, for all that you have given me.

The End of One Year and the Beginning of Another
**Touching on Full Slate of Issues: SFC Leaves Students Satisfied**

By JENY IOFINOVA and ARTHI SRINIVASAN

Originally printed April 21, 2003.

Students enrolled in the new SFC leaves in the second year have been satisfied with the changes proposed by student committees and department heads to meet student concerns. One concern was the potential difficulty of enforcing some of the committees’ recommendations. Many of the faculty and students expressed desires for long-term solutions to the SFC issues. This may be due to the current SFC model, which allows for more student input and faculty participation.

Overall, the students seemed satisfied with the reception their work received.

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The IHC made a decision this week that affected the lives of many undergraduates when it card picked in both houses. This decision has been met with much opposition and criticism from the IRC and other houses. The IRC, with the support of the student body, has decided to reverse this decision and institute new rules for card picking.

The IHC’s role in each house’s room selection is to ensure that there is an equal distribution of housing across the campus. However, the decision to allow only one member of each house to card pick has caused frustration and conflict among the student body. The IRC has been vocal in their opposition to this decision, and the student body has rallied around them to support their cause.

The IRC has stated that the IHC’s decision is unfair and discriminatory, and they have vowed to fight for the rights of all students to have access to equal housing opportunities. They have called on the IHC to reconsider their decision and work with the student body to find a solution that is fair and just for everyone.

The student body has also called for a public hearing on this decision, and they have urged the IHC to take into account the concerns of all students before making any further decisions on housing.

Overall, the IRC and the student body are united in their opposition to the IHC’s decision, and they are determined to fight for the rights of all students to have access to equal housing opportunities. They have called on the IHC to listen to their concerns and work with them to find a solution that is fair and just for everyone.
Thanks, Farewell From Departed Administrators West, Friedman
To The Caltech Community,

Thank you for the phone calls, e-mails, cards, flowers, lunches and way too many dinners over the past four weeks. You have touched our hearts, confirmed our beliefs and reminded us why we will miss working with so many of you.

We would be remiss if we didn’t take a moment to thank some people who have made our time at Caltech meaningful.

We have, over time, had the opportunity to work with several groups of people within the student houses. In different ways, each has helped us not only address challenges we faced but enhance the services we provided. In the end, it was the people we encountered from these relationships. Social team members - you have been great to work with. You allowed us to turn the event registration process from a last minute panic to a well-oiled machine!

UCCs — the ways in which you support and assist others is truly appreciated and on more than one occasion, you made a difference in how our office responded to a situation. House presidents — you are in challenging positions, often in more ways than you ever anticipated when you were elected. You also have the ability to have tremendous power and influence as it relates to policy decisions and the quality of life for students. Don’t ever let that influence slip.

We have also had the great pleasure of working with some wonderful colleagues who assisted us in solving problems, communicating, clarifying information and opening doors for students. You have made us laugh, brightened many a day and contributed to our sense of accomplishment on a regular basis. Can, you and your staff in Safety were there for us, needed professional advice or just wanted an opinion. Gregg, the Security Office has been a major source of assistance and we could always count on good advice. We gave you our unconditional support on your personal endeavors (Kathleen and Beverly before you), you were always there to help clarify a situation, support a student or respond to a crisis. Your knowledge and wisdom were always something we could always count on. You always had a smile on your face! As Student Affairs, the Center responded to the issues we raised, whether we needed assistance with a situation and I can’t imagine what we would have done without that sound, reasonable advice you always gave. The willingness of so many faculty to be involved in the lives of students gave us an opportunity to meet many of you - house associates, faculty in residence, those who held administrative posts and those we served on committees. Your guidance and support have been much appreciated.

Many years ago our office staff became a group of people who valued each other as colleagues and as friends. We worked hard, joked in our personality differences, traveled together and have memories that we will take to our graves. We have had two partners in these endeavors. The first is Sue Chiarchiro. We were a team in every sense of the word. When told about the organizational changes, our initial concerns were not for ourselves but for each other and for our future. We saw ourselves as a staff and it made the office together a very special time. Sue, we’re sorry to leave you behind but we’re free for a meeting" any day just for fun.

Our other teammate was David Wales, former MOSH and good friend to Residence Life. David (and Kathy), thank you for your guidance, support and enduring friendship. We really need to know where you are going next so we can make reservations.

There are the many Resident Associates who have come and gone since 1990. It is almost impossible for anyone to list all the people who have visited our lives. We have seen many new relationships blossom and others end. We celebrated your dissertation defenses, cheered your engagements and danced at your weddings. Sue has a goddaughter whose parents are current RAs off-campus. Kim has a godson whose parents were RAs in Dabney for five years. We’ve been at the hospital when "RA babies" were born and Kim had the privilege of being in the delivery room when the former Marks House RAs had their first son. We joked to the nurses that we’d be back so it was only fitting then that those same RAs would be with us when her twins were born two years later. As the guardians for each other’s children now, we are constantly reminded of the many years we have known each other.

We have had the privilege of working with RAs who were smart, compassionate, tireless, creative and committed. You did what you wanted to do and we appreciated it.

All that said, we are doing fine... but thanks for asking! While we don’t agree with some of the recent changes, we want you to know that we are committed to the Caltech community and that our gratitude is beyond words. We have had the opportunity to work with some of the most talented people we have ever met... and we will miss you. We hope you will remain colleagues and friends for years to come.

Susan L. Friedman
Former Assistant Director of Residence Life
Kim D. West, Ph.D.
Former Director of Residence Life

With 20 Years of Experience, Newcomer Marshak Strives To Represent in New Post

By Mark Polinsky

Originally printed December 20, 2002

"My job is to represent the interests of the students," said incoming Student Affairs Vice President Margo Marshak about her new post.

After spending more than 20 years in high-ranking student-affairs positions, Dr. Marshak comes to Caltech as the first full-time vice president of Student Affairs. Besides voicing students' views in meetings with other administrators, Dr. Marshak directs the extensive department of Student Affairs.

Selected for the position out of a large field of highly qualified candidates, she has extensive experience in the field, with experiences in similar roles at such prestigious universities as New York University, the University of Chicago and the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania. With virtually any door open to her, then, why Caltech?

"The quality of the students is tremendous and I like the close-knit atmosphere of Caltech," she mused, smiling. "I felt it like an unbelievable opportunity." Dr. Marshak cited her intrigue in Caltech traditions, as well as in the unique student culture of self-governance. All this served to secure her for this position at Caltech.

In her first month at Caltech, Dr. Marshak has worked tirelessly to adapt to Caltech. Each day, she attends several meetings with administrators of other departments, as well as with those working under her. Attending such meetings helps her get accustomed to Caltech's unique social and academic atmosphere.

Similarly, Marshak speaks regularly with student leaders to better understand the needs of the student body. She has attended many campus-wide events, as well as formal dinners, at some of the undergraduate houses to better understand the Caltech culture. Marshak maintains that she must learn how Caltech functions so that she does not impose her past experience, but uses it only to help her.

Asked about her goals, Dr. Marshak stressed that she is still growing accustomed to the institute and has thus not yet fully developed specific goals on which to direct her focus. Still, she does have a general goal: "to make Student Affairs as good as it can possibly be."

Further, Dr. Marshak stresses communication between Student Affairs and the student body. Because she sees herself as a strong advocate for the students to the administration, she says, she often emphasizes students' views in meetings with other administrators. Dr. Marshak directs the extensive department of Student Affairs, she must deal with many issues and at the forefront are the major problems facing Caltech and its students.

Along this vein, Dr. Marshak has met with other administrators on minimizing the impact of budget cuts. "To solve the situation, all members of the Caltech community will have to make sacrifices," she noted. Some of these sacrifices might be parking fees and increased health insurance costs. Still, Dr. Marshak emphasized that similar problems are affecting all of higher education.

She has also begun to address the oft-mentioned low student morale. She described the ASCTT led "What I Like About Caltech" event, held two weeks ago, as instrumental in helping her understand the social issues facing the Caltech community. In this regard, Marshak sees one of the main purposes of Student Affairs as working to make students feel satisfied with their education and life at Caltech.

As vice president for Student Affairs, Margo Marshak has an important job in the administration of Caltech. Not only does she direct many departments, but also represents students in the administrative structure. Coming to Caltech after years of experience at other colleges, Dr. Marshak promises to address the many issues plaguing Caltech students. She ultimately chose Caltech because of its unique culture and hopes to maintain this atmosphere and help students enjoy it.

Margo Marshak's smile has indeed proven ever present over the course of the year.

The California Tech

Farewell From Departed
Administrators West, Friedman

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