



Semana Latina brings Hispanic flair to Tech

BRANDON COMELLA
Staff Writer

This May, Caltech was once again alive with the sounds and sights of Latin America. The Caltech Latino Association of Students in Engineering and Sciences (CLASES) put together the weeklong celebration of Hispanic Culture. Each day featured a lunchtime event as well as special Coffee House offering at night.

Monday had a local artist showing his work in front of Chandler. Martin Shepherd, a Caltech Staff member, entertained those eating lunch with Andean tunes played on his Quena, or South American flute. At night many students going into the Coffee House decided to have the Mexican special, which included churros, enchiladas, and horchata.

For lunch on Tuesday, Tom Mannion prepared Asado, or Argentinean barbecue. Students were treated to various cuts of meat, with the chicken, pork, and beef made to taste like they had just come from a parilla in Buenos Aires. Professional Tango dancers showcased their skills, gliding across the dance floor. Afterwards, several pairs of Caltech students went up and started dancing themselves. Wednesday brought Mannion's mixed paella, served on the typical gigantic dish of rice with meat and seafood. To keep with the Spanish theme, a group of five



Brazilian Samba dancers strutted along in a congo line with ecstatic Caltech students during Semana Latina.

- Provided by Brandon Comella

flamenco dancers performed to the music of a guitarist. Students bought all of the C-House specials for the night, and at one time the Spanish croquetas completely took over the fryer. Both Peru and Costa Rica were represented on Thursday. Dancers showcased several dances from the Coastal, Andean, and Amazonian regions of Peru, while onlookers enjoyed various typical

foods from the country. The night was dedicated to Costa Rica, and C-House served arroz y pollo (chicken and rice), cajetas de coco (a coconut sweet), and pineapple juice. Brazil, though often forgotten amidst the mostly Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America, received its fair share on Friday. Tom Mannion roasted a whole lamb on the grill, to accompany the feijoada, or rice and beans. A staple of Semana Latina, the Samba dancers returned

to much fanfare. After their first set, they got the crowd involved, forming a congo line and showing them how to dance a few other dances.

This was the first year with a daytime weekend event. Because many of the staff and faculty are busy during the normal events, CLASES decided to have activities on the weekend so that they could enjoy the festivities as well. Staff, students, faculty and their families were all invited to Beckman

Institute Lawn to celebrate the end of Semana Latina. There, they enjoyed tacos and Latin American desserts while listening to music and, for the younger children, while jumping in a bouncy castle. Later that evening the Salsa Club hosted a Latin dance party in Winnett. Students got to relax while also learning a few salsa moves.

CLASES is already hard at work on next year's Semana Latina, and hopes to make it even better than this year's.

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News briefs from around the globe

Provided by Tech correspondent Sam Barnett

Need to know

< **100** words about the world this week – topics sorted from good to bad

by Sam Barnett – links to full stories available at barnett.caltech.edu/news

Faster pain relief

49 minutes with new aspirin versus 100 minutes with regular dose [\[AP\]](#)

LinkedIn goes public

\$ **8.9 billion** valuation for social network geared towards business [\[WSJ\]](#)

Federal flood insurance

\$ **1.2 trillion** in coverage provided – program is \$18 billion in debt [\[CNN\]](#)

Drought in Texas

82% of the state is suffering – $\frac{3}{4}$ of crops rated poor or worse [\[LA TIMES\]](#)

Deadly Missouri tornado

24 people dead – hospital, schools suffer major damage [\[LA TIMES\]](#)

Taliban revenge attack

\geq **11** soldiers killed at Pakistani naval base – Taliban holding hostages [\[BBC\]](#)

Troops target cemetery

\geq **5** mourners gunned down leaving funeral for protesters in Syria [\[BBC\]](#)

Third Student-Faculty Lunch of this term will be held Tuesday, May 24, at noon.

The deadline to sign up for a spot is Monday, May 23, at noon.

To RSVP and for more information, e-mail ARC Reps at arcman-dude@gmail.com.

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ASCIT minutes

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes by Laura Santos

May 15, 2011

Officers present: Chris Hallacy, Margaret Chiu, Laura Conwill, Diego Caporale, Mario Zubia, Prakriti Gaba, Laura Santos

Officers absent: None

Guests: Rebecca Lawler, Paul Fleiner, Perrin Considine

President's Report:

1. Alumni association: The director wants to coordinate a senior barbecue; wants to improve alumni-student relations
2. Alumni Fund Advisory Committee: They need to advertise to get students to come to more phone campaigns (students get both paid and fed!)
3. Senior boxes: Seniors will get boxes to move out
4. Bylaw change: A new amendment regarding the election cycle is being made. This BoD will still be here at this time next year, so our year will set the pace for the future budget structure. The Budget will also now start at the beginning of the school year.
5. Survey: There will be an end of the year survey.

Officer's Reports:

1. VP of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair):
 - a. Dean's meeting: No problem classes, yay!
 - b. Undergrad Seminar Series: Happening June 2, 5-6pm in Avery library with Harry Gray.
 - c. Ma1a summer course: They are looking into creating a Ma1a summer prerequisite course for students who don't feel as prepared. Prof. Kiewiet is working on the content, it will be an online video course.
 - d. ME96: Dealing with course complaints
 - e. Option Tea: There will be an Aph option tea May 19 done by the MOSH.
2. VP of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair):
 - a. MHTF proposal: working on changing the UCC program, implementation of the ACs, will be presented to the administration in a week and will be in the Tech article next week.
 - b. RF List: Made minor changes to the policies. Will be taking the Fleming flag off the list and house portraits will be made non-moveable.
 - c. SFC: Interviews on Saturday.
3. Director of Operations:
 - a. Screening room: Sound card is in, subwoofer will be in this week, and will get a new PS3. Yay the screening room works!
 - b. Yearbook: Distributing old yearbooks is complete. Yearbook editor is talking to Taylor (the company) and getting a quote to give to finances.
 - c. Inventory: Asking people soon to return things, will get done over the summer.
4. Treasurer:
 - a. ASCIT Formal funding: Should get the security deposit back. Mario just needs to go over the expenses and write a how-to on what to do.
 - b. Event Proposal: Still needs to make the event funding proposal form.
 - c. Endowment: Will be moving \$40k into the endowment.
5. Social Director:
 - a. ASCIT Formal: Ran well. Will go back one more time to collect centerpiece materials and will pick up lost and found items.
 - b. Movie Night: Working on it, can't do the pool/movie party.
6. Secretary:
 - a. Olive Walk Board: New post about what the BoD is.
 - b. SFC Updates: Want updates this year from the stewardship committee, health committee, student housing, and freshman admissions.

Discussion:

1. Ug-spam-list: BoD needs to watch how many are sent
2. Google Offer: Offering group texting to us, we'll do it.
3. ASCIT Formal: Lots of people think that the money we spent on formal was excessive. Points made:
 - A quarter of our budget was spent on one event
 - Formal has been a tradition for at least the past 5-6 years
 - Is there a better way to spend the money? Include this in the end of year survey
 - ASCIT should do a big end of the year event to end things on a good note (not to compete with ditch day)
 - Compare ~\$30k for ASCIT formal with \$50k for concerts, \$5k for interhouse parties, and \$26k for Big I (but not interhouse parties and Big I take a lot of work)
 - We should flip flop social years and have Big I and ASCIT Formal bi-annually
 - Big I is worth it: lots of alumni come and it feels like an actual college party and has high attendance. Even if people get tired when it comes to building their individual house parties, those parties still happen

Science updates from Caltech Today

Caltech scientists reveal data surrounding Japan earthquake

KATIE NEITH
Caltech Science Writer

PASADENA, Calif.—When the magnitude 9.0 Tohoku-Oki earthquake and resulting tsunami struck off the northeast coast of Japan on March 11, they caused widespread destruction and death.

Using observations from a dense regional geodetic network (allowing measurements of earth movement to be gathered from GPS satellite data), globally distributed broadband seismographic networks, and open-ocean tsunami data, researchers have begun to construct numerous models that describe how the earth moved that day.

Now, a study led by researchers at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), published online in the May 19 issue of *Science Express*, explains the first large set of observational data from this rare megathrust event.

"This event is the best recorded great earthquake ever," says Mark Simons, professor of geophysics at Caltech's Seismological Laboratory and lead author of the study.

For scientists working to improve infrastructure and prevent loss of life through better application of seismological data, observations from the event will help inform future research priorities.

Simons says one of the most interesting findings of the data analysis was the spatial compactness of the event.

The megathrust earthquake occurred at a subduction zone where the Pacific Plate dips below Japan.

The length of fault that experienced significant slip during the Tohoku-Oki earthquake was about 250 kilometers, about half of what would be conventionally

expected for an event of this magnitude.

Furthermore, the area where the fault slipped the most—30 meters or more—happened within a 50- to 100-kilometer-long segment. "This is not something we have documented before," says Simons. "I'm sure it has happened in the past, but technology has advanced only in the past 10 to 15 years to the point where we can measure these slips much more accurately through GPS and other data."

For Jean Paul Ampuero, assistant professor of seismology at Caltech's Seismological Laboratory who studies earthquake dynamics, the most significant finding was that

of stress aren't found where the paper has just ripped, but rather right where the paper has not yet been torn," he explains. "We had previously thought high-frequency energy was an indicator of fault slippage, but it didn't correlate in our models of this event."

Equally important is how the fault reacts to these stress concentrations; it appears that only the deeper segments of the fault respond to these stresses by producing high-frequency energy.

Ampuero says the implications of these observations of the mechanical properties of tectonic faults need to be further explored and integrated in physical models

most significant finding was that a large slip occurred near the Japan Trench.

While smaller earthquakes have happened in the area, it was believed that the relatively soft material of the seafloor would not support a large amount of stress.

"The amount of strain associated with this large displacement is nearly five to 10 times larger than we normally see in large megathrust earthquakes," he notes. "It has been generally thought that rocks near the Japan Trench could not accommodate such a large elastic strain."

The researchers are still unsure why such a large strain was able to accumulate in this area.

One possibility is that either the subducting seafloor or the upper plate (or both) have some unusual structures—such as regions that were formerly underwater mountain ranges on the Pacific Plate—that have now been consumed by the subduction zone and cause the plates to get stuck and build up stress.

"Because of this local strengthening—whatever its cause—the Pacific Plate and the Okhotsk Plate had been pinned together for a long time, probably 500 to 1000 years, and finally failed in this magnitude 9.0 event," says Kanamori.

"Hopefully, detailed geophysical studies of seafloor structures will eventually clarify the mechanism of local strengthening in this area." Simons says researchers knew very little about the area where the earthquake occurred because of limited historical data.

"Instead of saying a large earthquake probably wouldn't happen there, we should have said that we didn't know," he says. Similarly, he says the area just

“
Our study is only the first foray into what is an enormous quantity of available data...there will be a lot more information coming out of this event...
 - Mark Simons
 ”

high- and low-frequency seismic waves can come from different areas of a fault.

"The high-frequency seismic waves in the Tohoku earthquake were generated much closer to the coast, away from the area of the slip where we saw low-frequency waves," he says.

Simons says there are two factors controlling this behavior; one is because the largest amount of stress (which is what generates the highest-frequency waves) was found at the edges of the slip, not near the center of where the fault began to break.

He compares the finding to what happens when you rip a piece of paper in half. "The highest amounts

of earthquakes, which will help scientists better quantify earthquake hazards.

"We learn from each significant earthquake, especially if the earthquake is large and recorded by many sensors," says Ampuero. "The Tohoku earthquake was recorded by upwards of 10 times more sensors at near-fault distances than any other earthquake. This will provide a sharper and more robust view of earthquake rupture processes and their effects."

For seismologist Hiroo Kanamori, Caltech's Smits Professor of Geophysics, Emeritus, who was in Japan at the time of the earthquake and has been studying the region for many years, the

local strengthening—whatever its cause—the Pacific Plate and the Okhotsk Plate had been pinned together for a long time, probably 500 to 1000 years, and finally failed in this magnitude 9.0 event," says Kanamori.

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Students win awards for leadership and academics

The Housner, Green, Froehlich, Haagen-Smit, and Zeigler Awards were presented during a luncheon at the Athenaeum on May 5, hosted by Associate Dean Barbara Green and Dean of Graduate Studies Joseph Shepherd.

Erik Madsen, a senior with a double major in Physics and Economics, and Kedron Silsbee, a senior in Physics will receive this year's George W. Housner Prize for Academic Excellence and Original Research at commencement. This award

is given to a senior or seniors in the upper 20% of their class for an outstanding piece of original scientific research.

Elliot Schneider, a senior in Physics was presented the George W. and Bernice E. Green Prize. The Green Prize is awarded to an undergraduate or undergraduates in any class for original research, an original paper or essay, or other evidence of creative scholarship beyond the normal requirements of specific courses.

The Jack E. Froehlich Memorial Award is for an outstanding junior

in the top 5% of the class who shows outstanding promise for a creative professional career. Brian Lawrence, a junior in Mathematics and Yutong Chen, a junior in Applied and Computational Mathematics were chosen as the joint winners of the 2011 Fredrick J. Zeigler Memorial Award.

Evan Biggs, a junior in Biology and Eva Nichols, a junior in Chemistry are the joint recipients of the 2011 Arie J. Haagen-Smit Memorial Award, which is given to a chemist or biologist who has shown academic promise and has made recognized contributions to Caltech.

Matthew Mayers, a sophomore in Mathematics (and possibly Chemistry as well in the future) and Yutong Chen, a junior in Applied and Computational Mathematics were chosen as the joint winners of the 2011 Fredrick J. Zeigler Memorial Award.

This award recognizes students studying pure or applied mathematics in their sophomore or junior year, who have shown excellence in scholarship as demonstrated in class activities or in preparation of an original paper or essay in any subject area.

Additionally three students from the senior class, Dongkook Lim, Faith Manary and Karthik Sarma were presented the Robert L. Noland Leadership Award at a dinner presentation in the Athenaeum Library on May 11, 2011.

The Robert L. Noland Leadership Award is for outstanding Caltech students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities and have encouraged and supported others in realizing their own leadership capabilities.

Health Fair helps educate campus

SANDHYA CHANDRASEKARAN
News Editor

With the support of ASCIT, the Counseling Center, the Graduate Office, Human Resources, Student Affair, the Caltech Y, the Caltech Premed Association, Aetna Health, and of course, student volunteers, the second annual Caltech Student Health Fair this past Thursday was a huge success.

The mission of the fair is to "to increase Caltech students' awareness on a variety of significant and readily applicable health topics." The appeal of the fair derives from the fact that many of the resources for information are also readily available on campus. Several booths were set up along the San Pasqual Mall and manned by a variety of organizations, from both on and off-campus. On-campus clubs and personnel included nutritionist Jill Brooks, the Caltech Women Center, the Caltech Alpine Club, Y Outdoors, the Pre dental Association, Caltech's Bike Lab, Tai Chi Club, Counseling Center, Health Advocates, and CDS. Together, these organizations



Jay Daigle shows off fiesty moves.
- Caroline Yu

covered health topics such as proper dieting, exercise, mental health, and health careers and applications. Off-campus organizations such as the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) and Las Encinas Hospital also attended and shared useful information with the Caltech community.

In addition to the booths, the fair included a line-up of various performances. A very enjoyable attraction was the free massage chairs, which were set up on the lawn for the duration of the fair. Stereotypically stressed out Caltech students had the opportunity to relax, under the skilled hands of trained masseuses.

At noon, the Caltech Jazz Band performed for fifteen minutes. The band consisted of Caltech students as well as William Bing, who provided lively percussion support. The music served as a soothing, melodious backdrop

to the hustle and bustle of all the excited participants.

Soon afterwards, the Caltech Bollywood Dance Crew performed a few dances, adding a bit of cultural flavor to the event. This was followed by the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club, who not only performed, but encouraged volunteers to join in the dances as well. At 12:30, students participated in Tai Chi exercise demos. These groups conveyed the message that a balanced lifestyle includes physical activity that is not only rewarding, but can also be fun. The Jazz Band wrapped up the fair with some more songs, leaving everyone in a feel-good mood.

A fun aspect of the fair that carried over from last year was the Jeopardy Health Game. As Catherine Xie explained, "[It] was very popular since the prize for the winner of each round was a free massage from professional masseuses." The game was a fun way for students to test what they knew (or thought they knew) about supposed health foods on the market.

Nutritionist Jill Brook organized fun demonstrations and shocked students with how many "health food imposters" are out on the market. In reality, these foods cause our daily sugar intake to be nearly three times as much as the recommended value. For example, a bag of kettle chips is actually healthier than "Smart Start" cereal, advertised as a health product for its antioxidants, because the cereal has three times its amount of sodium! Two residents from the Huntington Hospital also attended the event. Dr. Elisa Alvarado, an internal medicine physician and Dr. Brandy Wilson-Manigat, an OB/GYN, added a medical flair with their presence and first-hand insight into the world of medicine and disease. They shared their advice on issues such as women's health and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Sleep technicians from the Huntington Sleep Health Center also gave some tips about how students could improve their quality of sleep, something that Caltech undergraduates could definitely learn from.

As Xie described, "From talking to the organizations and students who came by, it was clear that everyone enjoyed the interactive demonstrations and activities on promoting healthy lifestyles interspersed with the informative booths and talking to knowledgeable experts on relevant health topics such as personal fitness, nutrition and increasing quality of sleep. Many groups looked forward to participating again next year, and even talked excitedly about the activities they could do."

Koonin warns of energy crisis

ANGAD REHKI
Contributing Writer

On Friday, May 13, Undersecretary of Energy for Science Dr. Steven Koonin presented a talk about the role of the Department of Energy and its goals for American energy policy. Koonin was an undergraduate physics major at Caltech, went on to obtain a PhD in theoretical physics at MIT, was a Caltech professor for 30 years, and served as provost of Caltech for the next ten years.

In 2004, Koonin became Chief Scientist at BP, managing the company's alternative energy policy, and in 2009 he took up his current position in the Obama administration.

Koonin began by presenting a flowchart of energy sources and sinks in the US economy, revealing that there was almost a bijection between petroleum and transportation.

This confirmed the well-known fact that reducing transportation or increasing its efficiency would put a significant dent in US spending on oil and therefore reduce our dependence on foreign suppliers. Increasing energy independence (or energy security) was one of three kinds of challenges outlined by Koonin for the next few decades; others concerned competitiveness and the environment. The

Department's specific goals for transportation are to reduce oil imports by a third of their current levels by 2025 and to put 1 million electric cars on the road by 2015. As a comparison, the US imported 13 billion gallons of oil daily in 2008; in that year, there were only about



- sass.caltech.edu

57,000 electric vehicles in use.

Meeting the Department's goals will require more than just better technology, as according to Koonin "technology is just one of many levers that turn the gears of society."

While Koonin's talk was centered on current and upcoming energy challenges to the US, it was interspersed with surprising factoids about policymaking and

the economics of energy. For instance, any car can be made about 20% more efficient for just an extra \$2000 (which pays off after only five years, given the current gas price of \$4/gallon and some average estimates of mileage and miles driven). In addition,

the majority of energy usage in the US is by buildings (40%), not industry (32%) or transportation (28%). Finally, the Department of Energy estimates that shale gas – natural gas produced from shale, a type of sedimentary rock – will be a game-changing source of energy in the decades to come due to its low cost and domestic abundance.

Koonin's main point was that the challenge of energy is vastly different in scale than any other scientific enterprise of our generation. For instance, a bio or IT startup with a good idea could, with the help of venture capitalists, become quite successful in the space of a few years. However, the average VC fund deals with about \$150 million, while a single power plant requires about \$3 billion just to create; the problem of energy is therefore a problem of scale.

As Dr. Koonin concluded about new technologies, "It's not enough to do it once. It's not even enough to make it cost competitive. You need to drive it to scale!"

10 things you didn't know... ...about Caltech Dining Services

ADAM KHAN
Contributing Writer

For a class project, Ryan Newton, Tyler Hannasch and I were assigned to look into an organization and evaluate its potential for innovation. We decided to investigate Caltech Dining Services.

Even though there tends to be a culture to complain about the food on campus (especially the board dinners), after looking into the issue further, we've found there to be a general trend in increasing quality of food on campus since Peter Daly took charge of dining on campus. If you don't believe me, just talk to an alum. The main force that we've observed to be driving this change is CDS's commitment to innovation and improvement. Through the course of the term we've uncovered a variety of improvements that came as a surprise to us and we wanted to share these points of innovation with campus as a whole. So here are 10 things you probably didn't know about CDS:

1. The CDS Chefs, administration, and staff all try the board meals before we eat them and a majority of them eat the board dinners every night.

2. Recently, CDS has switched to recycling food waste. They end up composting about two dumpsters full of food every night.

3. CDS has purchased new higher quality steaks for Thursday grill nights. They will be unveiling them May 26th. Also, the grill teams will be trained on how to properly cook the steaks.

4. The pizza dough used in Chandler is vegan.

5. Red Door has begun to serve freshly brewed iced tea.

6. Broad Café exists! I know that it is a little bit more of walk from the Olive Walk than Chandler is, but their freshly prepared gourmet sandwiches are definitely worth the extra effort.

7. This past summer, CDS began serving Bento Boxes at the sushi station in Chandler. This meal, consisting of teriyaki chicken or beef, sushi, and a salad, is packed with a variety of flavor and has been extremely

popular. They are served every Wednesday and Friday at the sushi station.

8. The C-Store now carries Mexican sodas. These are your favorite soft drinks (coke, sprite, fanta) made with real cane sugar, rather than high fructose corn syrup. Like the Bento Boxes, they've been extremely popular, so move quickly as the C-store keeps running out.

9. Just a reminder that there is still late night food made available Sunday through Thursday in the houses around 2:30 am.

This usually consists of some type of dessert as well as a variety of fruits.

10. Finally, CDS wants to hear your comments. Feedback is a critical step in order for CDS to make improvements to the food on campus, and currently they aren't getting enough!

So let your voice be heard, email the Associate Director of Dining, Jon Webster (jwebster@caltech.edu), with questions, comments, or suggestions.

Pizza and Ramen: A duo of food reviews

Masa of Echo Park delivers Chicago-style pizza to LA

WESLEY YU

Staff Writer

Deep dish pizza is something hard to come by in Southern California. I'm not sure why, because it's one of the best hearty meals I've had. I had a craving for it this Sunday, and decided to try Masa of Echo Park, a bakery

and café fifteen minutes away that proudly proclaims on its webpage: "Yes, we make Chicago Deep Dish Pizza."

I wasn't disappointed. Not being a native of Chicago, I can't say that I'm an expert in deep dish, but Masa makes some good pies. The name of the restaurant means they use a cornmeal dough

for their crusts, which gives it a little more flavor and crumbliness. The sauce and cheese are flavorful. And the meat is well-spiced. Masa is also a great value if you choose the right pizza. The one that I had, the "Lots of Meat" was only \$20 and could probably serve four



Obscenely thick crust and plenty of toppings makes Masa a great place to learn how to share.

- Wesley Yu



Each slice is literally overflowing with delicious sauce.

- Wesley Yu

large meneasily(indeed, it had lots of meat). If you compare that to a regular pizza from Round Table, Masa comes out a huge winner.

The only complaint I had, and it's a small one, is that there isn't enough variety in the deep dish selection. There are only five pizza choices on the specialties. Yes, there is a build your own, and lots of choices there. But it costs an arm and a leg (\$3 per topping is the going rate) to build the custom pizza.

Masa is a mom and pop restaurant, and it operates that way. Tom, one of the restaurant's owners, was at the front taking

orders and seating customers. The staff is friendly and prompt, though rushed at times given the popularity of the place. These people take pride in their food and their service. It shows. I will definitely be back to eat in.

Masa of Echo Park

Location: 1800 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026.

Take Out: (213)989-1558.

Price: Inexpensive (for the Specialties)

Quality: Try it. Deep dish isn't for everyone, but they do more than that.

Ajisen Ramen gives a different kind of Ramen to Techers

JOY LIN

Staff Writer

When you think of grabbing something to eat late at night in Japan, you might think of a traditional noodle stand serving hot, savory soba or udon. At Ajisen Ramen, you don't have to go to Japan to get that same delicious taste and you don't have to stand.

Ajisen Ramen's focus is on noodles, ramen to be exact. If hearing "ramen" brings up an image of pouring hot water into a Styrofoam cup then you're in for a surprise. Ramen is actually a very firm, chewy noodle made fresh using eggs, giving it the yellowish hue. And that's exactly what Ajisen gives you. What sets this restaurant apart from other Japanese restaurants is the fact that it offers none of the stereotypical sushi or bento boxes. Don't get me wrong; those can be delicious as well, but they've become a little stereotyped in terms of Japanese cuisine. In fact, the menu looks like something you would find at a tea place more than anything else, from their eight piece gyoza (dumpling) snack to their red bean and mochi soup.

The first thing you'll notice when you walk in is the size. There's probably only seating for 20 in two, narrow sections. However, it's clean, the décor is unique, and you'll only probably have to wait no more than 15 minutes on a busy day. We ordered the Tender

flavorful and they even provided a giant soup spoon to do the job. I especially enjoyed pouring a large spoonful of sesame seeds into my soups – the nutty aroma was just so tantalizing!

One of the first things you'll notice is just how wonderfully chewy the texture of the noodle is, especially if you've never been to a noodle place before. The pork ribs were fantastic: soft, tender and very tasty. The Premium Pork Ramen was amazing as well.

Pork Ribs Ramen (one of their star dishes), the Premium Pork Ramen, the Mushroom Shrimp Tempura, and a Pumpkin Tapioca. They were served after a reasonable wait and then it was time to dig in. Japanese noodles are traditionally eaten with the soup and Ajisen didn't skimp. The milky soup was very

dollars, I was expecting more pieces but in the end it didn't matter because I was already really full.

The dish was a little lackluster because for one, there was too much flour and too little salt in the shrimp mix which overpowered the mildness of the mushrooms. The chunky pumpkin tapioca was warm and absolutely delicious. The sweetness of the thick pumpkin soup was balanced by the flavorless but slippery tapioca.

My main complaint was the service; I think for the entire restaurant there were only two waiters. If you wanted anything, the only way to get it was to call the attention of one of the waiters.

O u r p u m p k i n tapioca took ages to arrive and by the time we were finished, it had already been more than an hour and a half since we went in. The entire meal cost \$28.48. That's



Ajisen offers Ramen with plenty of broth.

- Joy Lin



Appetizers at Ajisen are just as tasty as the entrees.

- Joy Lin

is (626)292-3888. Their hours are 11am-10pm Sunday-Thursday, and open until 11pm on Friday and Saturday.

Weiss shows synergy in science and cinema

JONATHAN SCHOR
Editor-in-Chief

I've often bemoaned the portrayal of science and scientists in movies. Don't get me wrong, I love hyperbole as much as the next guy, but magnet field lines making right angles in the newest Indiana Jones movie, or the creation of a new element in Iron Man II just doesn't seem to capture science or the scientific process too well. What scientists do is time consuming, often grueling, and rarely, if ever, works on the first attempt.

This is something that scientist/director Dr. Valerie Weiss understands all too well, and she's got the academic credentials to back it up. Coming from Princeton with a dual degree in Molecular Biology (major) and Theatre (minor), she entered Harvard Medical School as a graduate student and went on to earn her PhD in Biophysics, focusing primarily on X-ray crystallography.

Through both her undergrad and graduate experiences, Weiss split her time between science and the performing arts, going from actress to director at Princeton, and founding the Dudley Film Program at Harvard.

Weiss had always found it natural to combine the two subjects: "Doing science or making movies has always been about a passion to know how things work...for me they're intertwined in how I think about the world."

What surprised her, though, was the large number of science graduates who seemed to share her interest. In fact, rather than the liberal arts majors that many might expect, 50-percent of the graduate students who participated in Weiss's film program at Harvard were scientists. After receiving her PhD, though,

Weiss knew that she would have to choose between her two professions. As she puts it, "Film isn't something you can do as a hobby." Certainly the same is true for science.

Although she enjoyed her PhD experience, Weiss knew her true passion lay with film. Thus, she decided to pack up and move to Los Angeles. Her experiences in science, though, especially those at Harvard, continue to provide her with subject matter.

Through this fortuitous combination Weiss wrote, directed, and recently began screening her first feature-length film, *Losing Control*. The film, which was

shown at Caltech on May 18 at the invitation of Dr. Alice Huang, focuses on a Harvard graduate student as she tries to maintain control over both her scientific life and her love life.

Not too surprisingly, Weiss drew upon her own experiences at Harvard for the situations found in the film, and even to build some of the characters. The movie, though, is meant primarily for entertainment, not as a full-on critique of the research community. The characters are zany enough to flirt with the fringe of believability without

and in some cases ridiculously, tied together through pure coincidence.

Even the science involved might seem over the top at first (the protagonist is developing a drug to eliminate sex-linked disease by killing Y-chromosome-carrying sperm), but as Weiss found

Xencor scientist Dr. Hahn Nguyen explained that she had each actor load his or her own polyacrylamide gel and stain for banding. Joked Webber of his experience in the lab, "I was just looking for stuff I could steal."

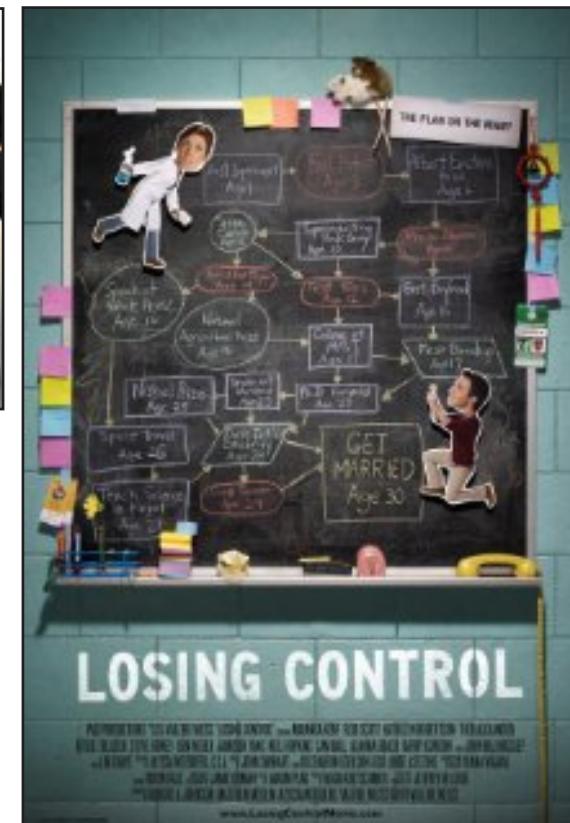
Further solidifying the connection between science and

students who aim to do so, she advocates using opportunities in LA to their advantage: "you're smart and resourceful enough to do anything."

Being that *Losing Control* focuses on a scientist's pursuit of romance, Weiss had some further advice for Tech students in the



The cast prepares for filming in Hollywood.
- www.pcdnews.com



- www.imdb.com

shortly after making the film such technologies are not so far-fetched. In fact, the development of such a drug has already been conceptualized and undertaken.

This is the type of edge-of-reality humor that Weiss shoots for. Even in her casting, she says she went with "really excellent and believable actors...[to] ground these over-the-top characters and [make] the situations even funnier and more awkward."

For a low-budget, independent film, the movie certainly did have a strong array of talents, from protagonist Miranda Kent (Campus Ladies) to lab post-doc Ben Webber (Sex and the City).

Having little experience with the type of high-level research science involved in the film, the actors were aided by a group of UCLA and Xencor scientists who helped to acclimate them to the research setting.

art, the actors and scientists noticed parallels in their lines of work. Remarked Dr. Michael Sawaya, a UCLA professor, investor in the film, and a friend of Weiss' from Harvard, "[I mentioned] you can work for years without getting publishable data, and then you get one experiment that works... and Mirinda said, 'that's just like being an actress!'" Sawaya went on to note the spirit of teamwork and camaraderie he saw among the actors, saying "I wish we were more like that in the lab."

Weiss herself is a living example of the bridge between these two not-so-dissimilar worlds, and she hopes to encourage others to follow her path. To Caltech

dating department. In short, don't over think it. Explains Weiss, "Maybe that lightning bolt hit when you met, but it won't hit again to tell you to get married." In other words, not every relationship has to play out like a Hollywood romance.

Weiss' *Losing Control* has received acclaim from a number of independent film festivals, and was recently featured in an issue of Science.

She hopes to see it in theatres within the coming year.



Valerie Weiss wrote and directed *Losing Control*.
- www.aivf.org

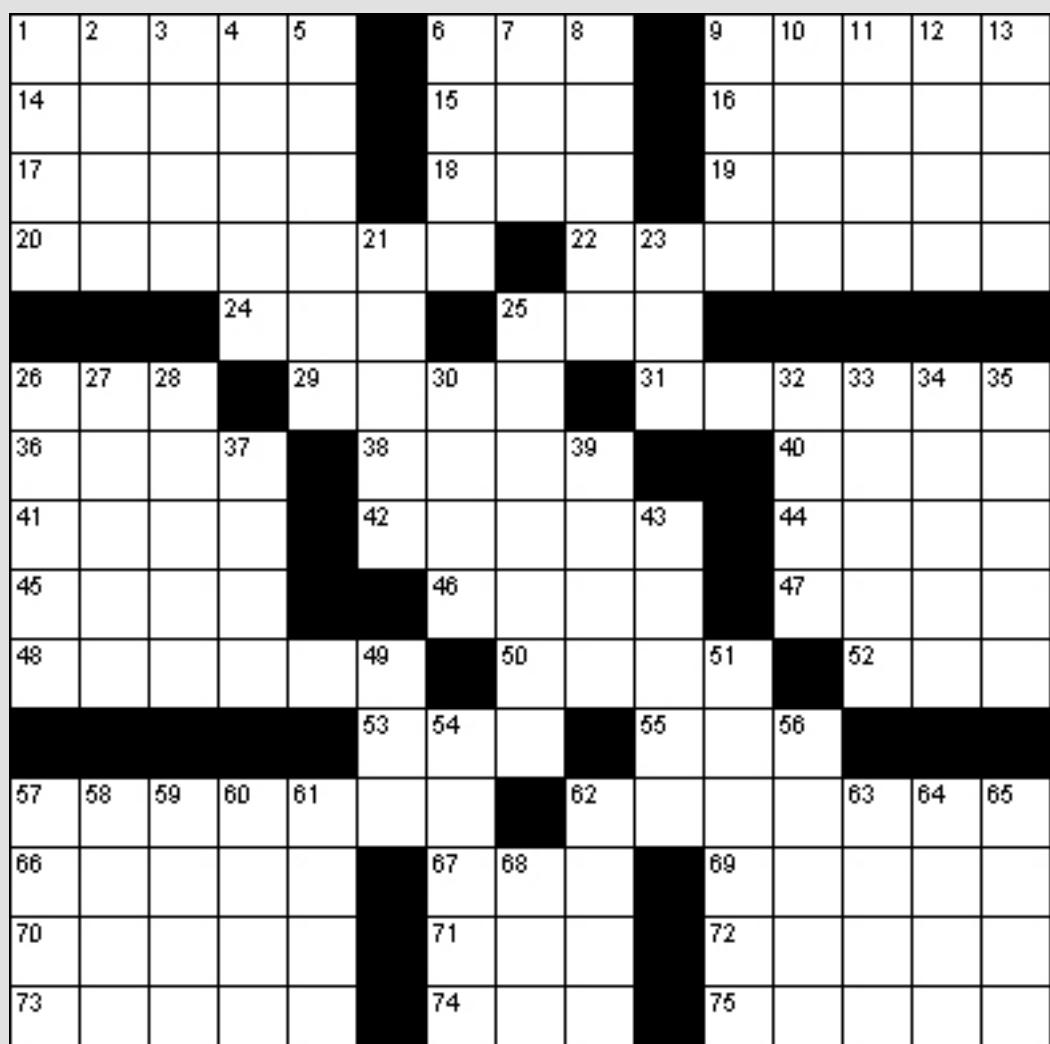
crossing it, while the situations themselves are wonderfully,



After the film screening at Caltech, members of the cast and scientist consultants sat down to answer the questions of the audience.

- Mike Nguyen

Today's Puzzle: Crossword

**Across**

1. Dairy product 48. Lecture 12. Misplace
6. Observe 50. Scorch 13. Pitcher
9. Fruit 52. Trap 21. Foam
14. Long-handled 53. Precedes 'for' usually 23. Epoch
scoop 55. Guided 25. Pharmacist
15. Levy 57. Industrial plant 26. Chasm
16. Underneath 62. Conveyance 27. Assemblage
17. Pertaining to birds 66. Crowbar 28. Bird of prey
18. Creative production 67. Expert 30. Pal
19. Without restraint 69. Collection of maps 32. Incline
20. Change into stone 70. Liquorice-flavored 33. Expanse of water
21. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. seeds 34. Angry
22. Go in again 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 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POKEMON CRANK CALLZ

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By Alexandra Souverneva

Rapture is a bust

MARY NGUYEN
Not a Staff Writer

PASADENA - According to a Hallup poll taken after the rapture failed to pass on Saturday, Caltech students are more disappointed than Harold Camping, the evangelical broadcaster who predicted the event.

Asked to rate their disappointment on a scale of one for "Awesome!" to ten for "I'm going to go cry and burn an ant," Caltech students averaged 8.3 while Camping rated his own disappointment at a relatively less extreme 7.

"This would have been a great weekend for the rapture," said Doris Potter. "Ditch Day was a great way to end Caltech's existence."

"Once 6 o'clock came and went, all I could think was 'Damn it! Now I have to do five sets for Monday!'" stated Yeltsin Kanova.

While students at Caltech began realizing the heavy burden of proceeding with life as usual, pollsters asked Camping why his level of disappointment was not higher.

"It's disappointing I was wrong, yes. However, the reason I am wrong now is the same small reason I was wrong in 1994: mathematical error. Why is math so difficult?" inquired Harold Camping.

Asked whether or not two failed predictions taught him anything, Camping replied, "Assuming two data points establish a trend, the next prediction will get even more media attention, and I would love that. Oh, I'm sure God would, too - can't forget Him."

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