

Student-2-student mentoring program takes off

By Peggy Allen
STAFF WRITER

A few weeks ago, the peer mentoring program s2s was publically released to the Caltech undergraduate and graduate community. The program, which initially started as a response to the suicides of three Caltech students near the end of last school year, offers means by which student needing help or advice may find consolation from a suitable student mentor.

The peer mentor pairing system is run by a website interface designed by senior Domenic Denicola, through which students may sign up to be mentors and list the topics they are comfortable in dealing with. S2s was mainly designed to suit the needs of students who don't feel that their problems aren't serious enough to warrant a visit to the Counseling Center but still want to talk to someone who has faced similar issues that they are facing, according to Denicola.

Common student issues include stress, academics, and relationship problems. Furthermore, the

program provides the resources for counseling less common issues such as eating disorders, international student issues, and divorce.

There are currently thirty students signed up as mentors, but the number of mentees, who under the policies of the program were to remain anonymous, are thus unknown. "We worked hard to make sure all the privacy issues are addressed," said Denicola.

The idea behind the program s2s was formulated last summer, when a group of about five students led by junior Pallavi Gunalan and sophomore Yuanyi Dong started discussing the idea with Kevin Austin, a Caltech counselor. During the first and second terms, Denicola and a few graduate students joined the team, working out the details such as privacy problems.

The program is similar to the Dean's student to student tutoring service in that the s2s website serves as a hub to connect students to other students who can help.

To sign up to be a peer mentor or to find a mentor please visit s2s.caltech.edu.

ASCIT Formal future uncertain

Could be replaced by "tea dance" or costly mash-up band

By Deboki Chakravarti
STAFF WRITER

Last year, the traditionally off-campus ASCIT Formal was moved on-campus in order to save money for the concert that was held during first term. This term, ASCIT Formal is being removed from the social calendar altogether so that the funding could go to a more general end-of-year activity.

This decision comes following the results of a survey sent out in the middle of April by ASCIT Social Director Addie Rice that was meant to determine student interest in holding ASCIT Formal as usual. Of the students who responded, 40% said that they wanted Formal to be held as usual, while 20% said that they were against holding Formal. The rest of the respondents did not care either way.

"The survey results made us realize that less than half of the students are interested, and we feel like an event like a formal should be something that many people look forward to at the end of the year," said Rice.

She also said that money was a minor factor, as the survey indicated that people preferred

an off-campus formal. This would entail renting buses and ballrooms, both of which are expensive.

According to Rice, there are two main ideas for events that will substitute for Formal. The first potential idea is to arrange for the Super Mash Bros., a music mash-up group, to come to Caltech for an informal party. However, this will be very expensive to arrange.

The other idea is to have a sort of formal "tea dance." There is money available from the fund for student-faculty interactions that could potentially be used to fund some of the party. The plan for the evening would include a dinner followed by a short ballroom or swing dance lessons.

Rice says that "there are several factors to determine which [event] will happen." Currently, those involved in the planning are considering having both events on the

same night. Under this plan, there would be a formal dinner and a DJ or band later so that those who are not interested in the dinner can still participate in the evening.

As for the future of ASCIT Formal, Rice does not write off the possibility that it could come back, saying "The ASCIT Formal might come back...There's little interest among upperclassmen, but people who haven't experienced it yet want it."



Last of Eight Solar Panels to be Installed on Wilson Parking Lot

Caltech to install panels for free under agreement with Suntech

By Richard Wang
STAFF WRITER

Caltech has successfully implemented the majority of its solar energy initiative around campus, and the last major installation atop the Wilson parking structures should be completed by July 2010. Under Caltech's power purchase agreement with Suntech, which manufactures the panels and is overseeing the installation, the Institute does not need to pay for any of the solar panels. Instead, Caltech will lease the panels from Suntech and purchase energy at a competitive nominal rate as outlined in the agreement.

According to John Onderdonk, Caltech's Manager for Sustainability Programs, the solar panel installations make a lot of economic sense in the current fiscal climate, as they are an excellent investment and will save

Caltech a significant amount of money. Not only do the panels not cost any money upfront, but they will also provide energy at a significantly lower rate than that offered by the municipal utility.

In addition, all the energy generated by the panels will contribute towards displacing the energy currently purchased from Pasadena Water and Power (PWP). According to PWP's website, 59% of the energy provided to Caltech is currently generated by coal, significantly higher than both the California and national averages (32% and 48% respectively). Furthermore, Caltech is buying energy at 18 ¢/kWh, which is also significantly more expensive than state and national averages.

Matthew Berbee, Energy and LEED Manager at Caltech, thinks that the school would benefit from producing its own energy whenever possible. "Power

in Pasadena is extremely expensive, which is rather unfortunate for the school. However, because of this, Caltech stands to achieve significant savings by purchasing power from its leased solar panels. At the current rate of 10.5 ¢/kWh, Caltech should save over \$100,000 per year from the panels alone."

The Caltech solar initiative consists of two consecutive phases, primarily financed by the Caltech Energy Conservation Investment Program in coordination with Perpetual Energy Systems and Suntech. Phase I, which is made up of the Holliston solar array, was completed in November 2008. Phase II, which includes solar arrays on the Wilson parking structures, Braun Gym, Baxter Hall, IPAC Laboratory, Cahill Center, and Annenberg Center,



Cahill shows off recent solar panels

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The Green Review

By Tina Ding
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Green emerged as a huge trend-setter a few years ago and is still going stronger than ever, marking its impacts from bio-renewable cups to green company standards. (How long do you think those high waist skirts are going to be around?) However, what's even more worthwhile now are the offsprings of this green trend, eagerly hopping on the bandwagon under the philosophy of carpe diem. Being the all so mighty capitalists who drive our nation's economy, companies are inventing and reinventing the means of everything that govern our everyday life. If you were at the Earth Day fair, whether to obtain free pens or to learn about green products, you no doubt noticed that green has infiltrated every sector of our economy. The paper (Hammermill) makers were handing out their recycled but strong durable white paper; the pen makers (Pilot) are producing pens made out of plastic water bottles (the pens even look like water bottles!); the coffeemakers

are supposedly making organic coffee out of some coffeemaker that also has recycled components. A Greenpeace representative in Seattle told me over the summer that the activist group recently convinced Kimberly Clark and Nike to incorporate 30-50% more recyclables in their production.

Today, everything around us is holding the I'm-good-for-the-environment sign. It doesn't help that there's a feel-good factor inside all of us, easily seduced by these misleading signs. The purpose of this small weekly review section is to present and discuss the green products and economy that are ever-so-prevalent in our society, whether they are complete bogus or something worthwhile, impactful, or progressive. Keep in mind that these items are no longer just directly green, as , but may be green via degrees; they can represent organic and green ideology, such as how public transportation cuts down on carbon dioxide emission.

Up next week is the Vibram Fivefinger, central to the barefoot/minimalist running movement that is slowly but surely gaining momentum; email me if you own them and want to comment on the experience.

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes

April 19, 2010

Officers Present: Adam Khan, Tim Black, Brian Merlob, Addie Rice, Prakriti Gaba, Karthik Sarma

Officers Absent: Chris Hallacy

Call to order: 2:10 pm

President's report:

- Endowment: Adam is still working with Anthony to help houses start fund-raising, etc. so that they can continue/begin building an endowment.

- Harvey Mudd Party: Adam has contacted Harvey-Mudd and May 8th has been set as the final date for the party. There will be 2 DJ's: one in RF courtyard and another the Dabney/Blacker courtyard.

- Meditation room: Adam is looking for extra space in SAC for meditation room.

- Coffeehouse: is looking to appoint two coffeehouse managers.

Officer Reports:

- V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair): Teaching awards are coming up in four and a half weeks approximately. Student-faculty lunches are also being held this term. There will be new sample reports taken about classes.

- V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair): Marks and Braun are going to be on Board next year. Tim has talked to Housing about summer and fall lotteries. Pre-frosh weekend this weekend was quite successful even with the new student life Saturday. 70 people pre-registered for Saturday's events, but 20 more people joined it the day off. IHC- appointed Committee signups will be posted this week.

- Operations Director: Merlob has been working on more club funding this week. ASCIT will be meeting with approximately 40 clubs this week and next week to discuss funding.

- Treasurer: The budget was posted in the Tech this week as well as submitted to financial services and was approved by RevComm.

- Social director: Club fair will take place this weekend. Addie is trying to contact a theater for the ASCIT movie. Unfortunately, due to financial expenses, there will not be a trip to San Diego this year. Instead, a trip to Malibu is being planned.

- Secretary: ASCIT resolutions will be posted soon online on the Donut website.

Discussion:

Indian Dance Show: ASCIT will endorse activities of the show. It presents a diverse and unique cultural background.

Scheduling:

Club meetings: will take place this week and next week on Mondays and Wednesdays.

BoD meeting with Anneila: will take place this Thursday.

Meeting adjourned: 2:44 pm

Submitted by Prakriti Gaba

ASCIT Secretary

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THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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Letters to the Editor

Sexism on Humor Page 8 of 4-19-10

Dear Editor,

In this week's Tech, you asked where the opinions were. Well, I'd certainly like to share my opinion about the humor section of this edition of the paper. When my roommate told me there were personal ads in the Tech, I thought I was in for a treat. Personal ads from Caltech students could be really funny. However, this was not the case. In fact, the sexism displayed in the ads were definitely not amusing. Date rape and roofies are not something to be joked around with. Low self-

“...the sexism displayed in the ads were definitely not amusing. Date rape and roofies are not something to be joked around with.”

esteem, whether a problem for men or women, is a serious problem. A boy who wants a girl who is “slightly unsure of [herself] and desperately seeking confirmation of [her] self worth” obviously feels threatened by women and should rethink his own confidence before dating. Also, a guy looking for a girl “willing to have sex regularly” blatantly demeans

women, especially when it is followed by the comment that “large breasts work as a substitute for the above requirements.” Combined with the sexism displayed in the IHC Chair's April Fools joke e-mail, this Caltech student is worried about the culture of sexism displayed at this school. Caltech became co-ed 40 years ago; this type of attitude is no longer acceptable.

Christina Kondos

For clarification, Kondos was asked “what was the sexism in the April Fools joke email” She replied in the following:

“Additionally, within the last year, some labs have violated a number of Caltech policies, including the [...] harassment policy, and some new researchers have felt uncomfortable. The committee will determine whether the offending departments will lose access to new researchers next year.”

People feeling uncomfortable due to harassment is never something to be joked around with. Apparently you have been lucky enough for sexism to not touch your life here at Caltech, but open up your eyes to the reality of what is happening.

Musings on Core Taskforce

There doesn't seem to be much talk of Core anymore, so I wanted to reinvigorate discussions with some of the ideas I've adopted and adapted:

Improving Teaching

While students may dislike attending classes where the professor talks softly, writes inscrutably and conveys ideas in a disorganized, incomprehensible manner, the professor is equally infatuated with teaching a class where students attend infrequently, sleep or day-dream when they do attend, and persist to not ask questions despite not understanding the material. The enthusiasm and appreciation of students serves as inspiration for becoming a better teacher, for adequately preparing for lectures, and for going above-and-beyond. Without those, what reason do professors have to be awesome teachers? If instead of depleting frosh enthusiasm we could intensify and sustain it, the internal reward would boost the effectiveness of external rewards, like monetary incentives, recognition and supposedly tenure. However, while our professors are quite knowledgeable, “rare individuals can also captivate and stimulate student audiences, large and small, with their dynamic classroom presentations.” [Boyer Report] Many of our professors would like to be better teachers, but don't have the time and energy to delve into the literature of pedagogy. A Center for Teaching & Learning - similar to the one at Stanford - would be an invaluable resource to professors and teaching assistants.

Frosh Seminar, 3-Unit Graduate Taught Classes, & a Capstone Experience

As suggested by the Boyer Report and included in the CCTF's charge, “the focal point of the first year should be a small seminar taught by experienced faculty. The seminar should deal with topics that will stimulate and open intellectual horizons and allow opportunities for learning by inquiry in a collaborative environment. Working in small groups will give students not only direct intellectual contact with faculty and with one another but also give those new to their situations opportunities to find friends and to learn how to be students. Most of all, it should enable a professor to imbue new students with a sense of the excitement of discovery and the opportunities for intellectual growth inherent in the university experience.”

Following the frosh seminar would be 3-unit graduate-taught seminars. The purpose of these graduate seminars would be to introduce undergraduates to a topic in significant depth and prepare them for research in that subject. Ideally, these seminars would increase the success of the SURF program, provide the graduate with new inspiration for his research, and facilitate the undergraduate's journey into the world of research. Students could enroll in a few of these seminars at the beginning of each term and later drop those that don't peak their interest.

Jumping ahead, seniors

should be strongly encouraged to end their Caltech education with a capstone experience as envisioned by the Boyer Report: “The experience should enable the student to bring to a symbolic conclusion the acquisition of knowledge and skills that has preceded this final effort. It should be conducted under the mentorship of a seasoned scholar-teacher who understands the joys and frustrations of a major project. It should allow the student to understand her or his potential for serious work and develop the aspiration to do it well ... We hope that many students will conduct these research or creative projects in interdisciplinary groups, choosing topics and using techniques that break through disciplinary barriers. The flexibility that should mark the graduate of a research university should be fully developed in this final culminating experience.”

Mentor-Protégé System

In large lecture halls, it's intimidating to ask a question or offer an answer; indeed, it's intimidating to offer too many correct answers. When attendance and participation are de facto discouraged, the learning process is consequentially inhibited. We need to create an environment where it's acceptable to participate. Tutoring is such an environment. It's perfectly OK to say “I don't understand” or to ask for an example. Unfortunately, tutoring has a stigma attached to it. So rather than ponder ways to humble students without stripping them of their self-confidence, I adapted Oxford-learning into what I call the mentor-protégé system, a scheme entirely sustained by undergraduates, but guided by graduates and the professor.

Succinctly, undergraduate mentors would be responsible for the learning of their frosh protégés. Undergraduates would first be nominated by their peers for their exemplary study habits and ability to convey complicated material. If these undergraduates accept, they would then be interviewed by a committee convened for the purpose of weeding out the unqualified, the unreliable and the haughty nominees. Those admitted would be required to go through rigorous training in pedagogy during the summer (as overseen by someone specializing in this area). Incoming freshmen would opt into the system and be grouped with at most four other students that have a similar learning style and level of intelligence. Mentors and their protégées would meet twice or three times each week to work on the problem sets and clarify misconceptions about the material. The purpose of this system is to communicate analytical and creative thinking skills, to reduce over-collaboration, and to reinforce and ensure learning. Side effects include interhouse bonding, enhanced study habits, and a less stressful introduction to Caltech (that doesn't rely on P/F). Ideally, the mentor would step in to make sure each and every protégé understands the material independently, instead of just the quickest one. Furthermore, she would be prepared with example problems similar to those on the

problem set so that she can explain the thought process without giving out the answer (TAs often complain of being “milked” for the answers, and this approach incentivizes learning how to think about a process, instead of how to memorize a process). This, however, requires that mentors have significant support, which they will receive from graduate teaching assistants. These graduates may not be good teachers themselves, but they know their material well enough that they can write extensive notes/examples and then explain the subtleties of that material to the mentors during weekly meetings. Professors would be the maestros leading the rendition. Rather than using class time to write the book on the board, they would be charged with getting students excited – the most important task! Professors have explained to me that there is simply too much material to put on weekly problem sets and that lectures are a crucial component of really learning the subject. If this is true, professors certainly have the expertise, breadth and depth to pick from the cornucopia of knowledge available to them only the cream of the crop – the information most likely to make students return to their rooms in an intellectual daze and incite them to spend their lunchtime avidly clicking through Wikipedia and professor-recommended research articles posted on the class website.

I would like to clarify some points of how I envision the system (though I am open to alterations) and its benefits. The mentors should not necessarily be the brightest, nor should math majors be the math mentors (in fact, I would almost disqualify such nominees on that basis). Mentors shouldn't be significantly more intelligent than their protégés, they should simply have a better command of the material and the analytical and creative thinking required to answer problems. By teaching, undergraduate mentors reaffirm their own learning (win-win). This system is specifically designed to exclude graduates from being mentors (because they may not have the same time flexibility, may not understand the undergraduate culture as well, and will never have gone through the system from the protégé perspective). Nonetheless, their roles as teaching assistants is respected and preserved. Given that, another highlight of this idea is that it would be self-feeding – that protégés would admire their mentors and be nominated by their mentors or peers to teach the next cohort of students. Though I realize this system isn't for everyone, I do believe it could become a unique part of our culture to battle procrastination, over-collaboration and any perceived anti-intellectualism.

Even More!!

If you are still reading, I would strongly suggest reading the Boyer Report. As always, my ideas are far from perfect, but I've thought about them for a long time, so I'd love any commentary you'd be willing to give – I'm always free for lunch!

-Brian Merlob

From the Editors

Dear Ms. Kondos,

I'm sorry that last week's humor page offended you.

However, I think you misunderstood the intent of the “sexist” personal ads. Those ads were designed to ridicule the (sadly) sexist attitudes of some Tech males. They were certainly not extolling the virtues of sexism.

I agree that sexism still exists at Caltech, but your concern is misdirected. Instead of scolding the writer who ridicules sexist attitudes on campus via the humor page, you should probably start scolding the sexist males that he ridicules.

Sarah

Dear Ms. Kondos,

I agree that there are traces of sexism that linger inside many students. However, this is not the same sexism that existed decades ago. For example, I see this sexism lingering all the time in the case with leadership positions. It is much more difficult for a qualified female who embody female attributes to win against a male. Sometimes the females who succeed are those who lower their feminine qualities. Why should females need to become less of who they are in order to fit in and be respected? We shouldn't.

I also agree that roofies took the humor too far.

However, the other humor aspects in the personal ads written in the 4-19 issue are not meant to be treated as demeaning to women. In fact, I believe that because we live in this progressive society where students are less likely than ever to actually take seriously someone who “wants to have sex regularly” as a personal ad, it works as humor writing

Because sexism is weakly prevalent in our society, many people joke about sexism the same way as they do about other stereotypes. We are geeks. We are smart. We are stupid. We make blonde jokes. The blondes make geek jokes. We are male, desperate, and perverted. We make fun of that sad plight. That is what I believe the humor author wanted to portray.

Tina

Meet Professor Bruck!

interviewed by Sandhya Chandrasekaran



Jehoshua (Shuki) Bruck is the Gordon and Betty Moore Professor of Computation and Neural Systems and Electrical Engineering at the California Institute of Technology. He was the founding Director of the Caltech Information Science and Technology (IST) program. Dr. Bruck is a Fellow of the IEEE, a recipient of the Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching, a Sloan Research Fellowship, a National Science Foundation Young Investigator Award, an IBM Outstanding Innovation Award and an IBM Outstanding Technical Achievement Award. He published more than 200 journal and conference papers, and he holds more than 30 US patents.

1. What initially brought you to Caltech?

My PhD dissertation at Stanford focused on Neural Networks and Computation, and Caltech was the best place in the world in that area. So in 1988 I interviewed at two places: IBM and Caltech, in fact, Caltech was the only school I applied to. The Caltech search committee didn't make a decision, so I ended up working for the IBM Almaden Research Center. One day in 1993, I got a phone call from Caltech asking me whether I was still interested in the job I interviewed for five years ago. I ended up coming down to Caltech for an interview, again. I loved the place so I joined the faculty in 1994. It's not like I was looking at twenty different schools. I interviewed here and forgot about it, and it came back to me. Life is full of surprises.

2. What classes have you taught?

Until four years ago, I only taught graduate classes in the CNS program. Basically, I taught about computational models that are related to the brain with the goal of educating people interested in CNS and biol-

ogy about computation theory. Later, while I was working on the IST initiative, I discovered that I didn't know much about IST. So, I decided to do what we all do when we don't understand something... teach it! As a result, I spent a lot of time learning and having fun preparing for IST 4. This year, there are about 140 students in the class. My plan is to keep teaching undergraduate classes and every now and then teach an advanced graduate class.

3. What are the differences you see between undergraduate and graduate students?

The Caltech undergrads population is a group of highly talented people with tremendous passion for science and engineering. At the same time, for many students, there is a large gap between their intellectual brilliance and their emotional maturity. The graduate students population is very similar to other top research schools. I hope to see more interaction between undergraduate students and graduate students. I believe that it will be beneficial for everyone.

4. What does your research primarily entail?

My general interest is in Information Theory and Computation, but that's a very broad description. Currently, I'm working on molecular computing - while we know that biology is amazing and magical, we don't know how it works. We don't know how to build a system that starts with one cell and becomes something large, like an elephant. How do we make progress on this type of questions? My view is that we should focus on the synthesis of bio-molecular systems and through this process develop a formal language (mathematics) that will help us reason about it. For example, biology is controlled by stochastic chemical reactions and we actually don't know how to reason about complex stochastic systems. I am currently working on the theory and design methodologies for stochastic systems, and in collaboration with Professor Eric Winfree; we are testing some of those ideas with DNA strands.

5. What do you think you would be doing, career-wise, if you weren't teaching?

I love what I am doing, especially, teaching and mentoring students. However, I worked in industry for about ten years and also co-founded a couple of startups. So transforming ideas to products is another passion of mine.

7. What are some of your hobbies?

I love reading. I read everything, with one exception: I rarely, almost never, read science fiction. I read some science fiction when I was a teenager. I really like reading about science and the history of science. I also love reading fiction books. But it seems that I cannot handle the two together...

8. Favorite book?

The US is a country of favorites. I do not know the answers to most "favorites questions", like what your favorite ice cream is, or what your favorite color is. I love Balzac, he's a French author, and I highly recommend his books.

6. What inspired you to found the IST program at Caltech?

It was an evolutionary and collaborative process. The more I learned about Caltech, the more I felt that I understood this idea

and that Caltech was the perfect place to do it. Working with people from different divisions, like physics, biology, humanities, I slowly realized that there are many interesting challenges that are not part of a single discipline. Also, the disciplines as we know them today are actually changing and will be changing more dramatically in the future. The whole notion of a discipline, I feel, has some negative connotations because there are boundaries associated with it. I prefer the word center because there is a focal point and no boundaries. So what I see in IST is something that is focusing on the notion of information and connects different areas like electrical engineering, computer science, applied physics and also mathematics, physics, biology, chemistry, economics and social science. IST represents the refocusing that we need to do in order to continue making meaningful progress in research and teaching.

9. What's your take on video games?

It is impossible for me to answer this question. I have a confession to make: I have never played a video game. Never. Not even once.

10. Favorite movie?

Well, I love movies. My wife and I love going to the movies. The last one I watched that I really liked is called "Gloomy Sunday". The action takes place in Hungary during World War II. It's a wonderful movie. Movies are yet another way of traveling to new places.

11. You spent your childhood in Israel. Do visit a lot now?

Yeah. All my family is there. My wife and I love traveling. So we go not just to Israel, but to other places as well. That's another hobby of mine. In 2008, we went to China and spent a month there and had a lot of fun. And we're going back to China this summer for a couple of weeks.

12. Do you know any jokes?

I know many jokes and stories. However, I prefer to let the jokes emerge and not retrieve them. Perhaps I should teach a class on jokes; I am already looking forward to grading the homework sets...

International Food Fair: Five dollars for international flavors and entertainment



Above: Sarun Atiganyanun and Natnaree Siriwon, both Caltech freshmen, grill chicken for the International Food Fair. The entrance fee was \$5 for an appetizing international fare, ranging from Korean to Chinese to Romanian food.



Left: Thanchanok Teeraratkul in yellow and Sarun Atiganyanun perform a traditional Vietnamese dance at the International Food Fair.

Editor's Picks: A+ Cheap, tasty eats that are not Chipotle

Celebrity eye candy at Gorbals in LA

by Sarah Marzen

Other colleges would love for TV shows like *Numbers* and *Greek* to regularly film scenes on their campus. The poor TV actors would be regularly mobbed by students hoping for a signature, lock of hair, or a shot as an extra.

I've always thought that these shows filmed on Caltech's campus because no one on Caltech seems to recognize the stars of the shows, much less care that a whole slice of the B-list celebrity pie is constantly on campus.

And why should we care? We don't watch *Greek* or *Numbers*.

However, every single Pasadena resident should care about the new star power residing in the cozy open kitchen of Gorbals, a new restaurant in L.A. Its head chef, Ilan Hall, won Season 2 of *Top Chef*. (Didn't watch that TV show either? Think *Hell's Kitchen*, but with higher-quality contestants. In other words, *Top Chef* is an intense cooking reality show that pits talented chefs against one another, awarding the best chef enough money to start his or her own restaurant.) Not only did Hall win Season 2 of *Top Chef*, but he blew the competition away. Based on the TV show, you'd guess that this Hall guy can really cook.

If you are still asking yourself why you'd care about some great celebrity chef opening up a restaurant half an hour away from where you live, then you should probably stop reading this article. I can't convince you that excellent, inexpensive food is worth a thirty-minute drive without force-feeding you high-end toffee pudding.

In November 2009, Hall opened a restaurant named "Gorbals" in a rather dumpy-looking part of L.A. Gorbals is Hall's father's hometown in Glasgow, Scotland. Don't let the name fool you, though-- the food at Gorbals is not geographically contained. Dishes range from downright Jewish (potato latkes and smoked applesauce) to decidedly un-Jewish (bacon-wrapped Matzoh balls) to completely random (squid ink risotto).

Most of the dishes on Hall's very short menu sounded a little strange to me and



Above: Improbable bacon-wrapped matzoh balls over pink horse-radish sauce.

Tina, but on Friday we drove to Gorbals along a surprisingly traffic-free 110. Beware that despite its celebrity status, the restaurant is a bit of a hole-in-the-wall. Gorbals is advertised outside by a sign written with blue-green chalk on a propped-up blackboard, but the actual restaurant is inside another building.

The menu items were sufficiently unfamiliar that I began to wonder, en route to the restaurant, if this would just be an expensive, unfulfilling waste of time. My unsophisticated palette thinks that a lot of the top chefs today are more concerned with cooking "art" than with making delicious food, in the same way that fashion designers today tend to make ridiculous clothes that wouldn't flatter a Barbie doll. I worried that *Top Chef* Ilan Hall would be such a chef-- would he make satisfying food at college student prices?

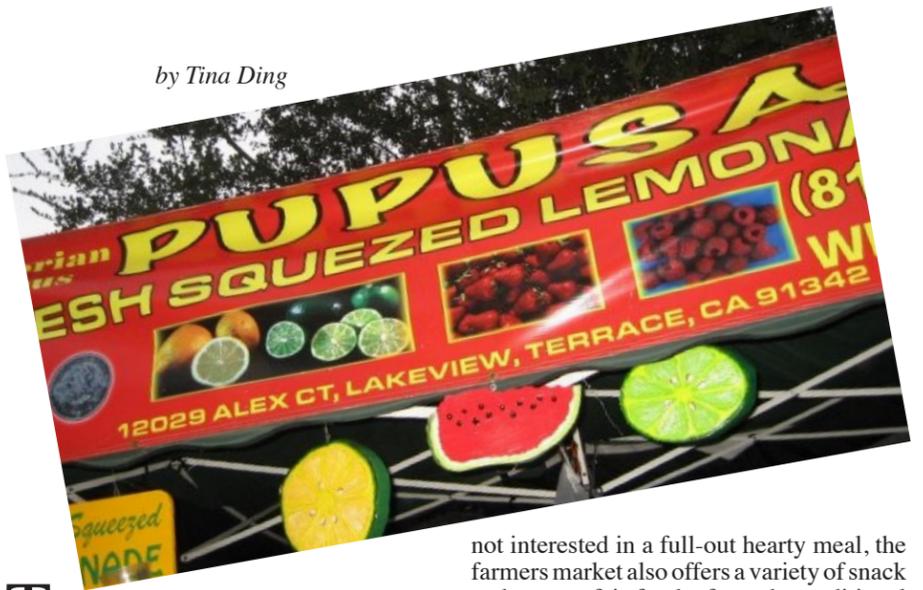
Answer: most definitely, *yes*. Tina and I shared four savory dishes (bacon-wrapped matzoh balls, squid ink risotto with mussels, Welsh rarebit with fried egg, and Asian-style crispy broccoli) and one dessert (toffee pudding) and paid \$26 each. Every single dish that we tried was delicious. The best dish of all was the toffee pudding-- imagine increasing the tastiness factor of a coffeehouse milkshake by a million. We're not professional food critics, so we'll just crib from the *LA Times*: "Prices are on the low side, portions small. But everything has real flavor."

As an added plus, Chef Hall is cute in a nerdy sort of way. All too often, famous chefs (Mario Batalli, Emeril Lagassi) look like they eat every single dish they cook-- not Hall. One of the neatest things about Gorbals' layout was the open view of the kitchen. Diners had a full view of the Head Chef preparing his food.

Had we been more adventurous, we might have even tried the bone marrow; had we been braver, we might have asked Chef Hall himself for a picture, given that he was working at the open kitchen in plain sight of all diners.... but I guess both will just have to wait until next time we head to Gorbals.

Weekly cultural delights at South Pasadena Farmer's Market

by Tina Ding



The food eating population (namely everyone) makes up a wide spectrum of preferences and picks. Not counting our shared CDS experience, we hold different images of the perfect meal; there are those who love the night out at the expensive Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, many who are obsessed with eating at the same Noodle World ever chance they get, and some who just want a tasty juicy ABC B-man burger.

Then, there's me, whose unconditional love and affection are for the hot, fresh, delicious, and cheap foods at outdoor vendors. They and their strong pungencies are easily found at the local farmer markets and seasonal street fairs. I have been to farmers markets all over the country, from Pike Place in Seattle, Union Square in New York, to Department of Agriculture in DC.

Throughout all my adventures to these excellent outdoor gathering of farmer grown foods, my favorite has always remained the farmers market *experience* (not quality of produce) right here at the South Pasadena Farmers Market.

It's so much more than just locally grown produce for sale. The outdoor venue is right outside the Mission stop on the Gold Line, on Thursdays from 4pm-8pm. Half its booths are made of cooked food vendors, ranging from the simplest hot dogs and burgers to cucumber ice cream. More specifically the vendors are bursting with smells of rotisserie chicken, tamales, roasted corn on a cob, roasted yam, Mexican food, Peruvian food, El Salvadorian pupusas, Korean specialties, etc. If you're

not interested in a full-out hearty meal, the farmers market also offers a variety of snack and county fair foods, from the traditional snowcones, kettle corn, and cookies to the organic and hippie sugar bamboo juice, uniquely flavored ice cream, pomegranate juice, nuts, Mediterranean olives...

My favorite has always been the Salvadorian pupusas. Every experience there is not complete without visiting the most popular booth, whose waiting time ranges from 2 to 10 minutes, to purchase the \$3 delicious and savory chicken and cheese dish. For the vast majority of you who never heard of pupusas, they are the Salvadorian's version of pancake, but made of corn. The corn tortilla is filled with cheese, chicken, vegetables, or other types of fillings. They come with salsa, sour cream, and guacamole to spread over the pupusas for an even more flavorfully amazing taste. They are also served with curtido, the slightly spicy Salvadorian mixture of pickled cabbage, carrots, and onions.

My addiction to the pupusas is not to undermine the other tasty treats at the market. The corn is hot and flavorful, the chicken tamales cause salivation at the first smell, and the Korean vendors hand out all kinds of samples of spicy tofu, soy mushrooms, and cucumbers. The vast variety of produce sampling of seasonal fruits is also enough to finish off any meal.

I took Sarah to this place last Thursday, and introduced her to the Salvadorian pancake, which she immediately loved. We sampled over six types of fruits, four types of nuts, four types of Korean food, a chocolate tart, spicy strawberry sorbet. There was just too much to remember.



The South Pasadena Farmers Market on Thursdays are bustling with people of all ages



Above: Sign and bagpiper outside of Gorbals directing diners to the restaurant.

NASA Leader Chosen To Be Graduation Speaker

By Sarah Marzen

COPY EDITOR

NASA administrator Charles Bolden will speak at Caltech's 116th annual commencement on June 11, 2010.

General Bolden leads the NASA team, which includes Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He was appointed by President Obama to head NASA in July 2009 and is the first African-American to head NASA permanently.

Caltech's Senior Advisor to the President for External Affairs Robert O'Rourke and Executive Assistant to the President Mary Webster chose Bolden based on criteria suggested by senior class co-Presidents Julianne Gould and Dan Obenshain. Gould wanted "who was a good speaker and funny," said Obenshain, "and I said that I would like someone who wasn't just a scientist, but also had appeal among laypeople, someone my grandmother would like to see."

Gould and Obenshain presented O'Rourke and Webster with a list of potential speakers. At the beginning of fall term, Gould and Obenshain presented O'Rourke with the results of a survey of Caltech's senior class, asking seniors who they would like to have speak at graduation. Seniors could write in as many names as they wanted.

President Obama nabbed the most votes, and Stephen Colbert garnered the next most number of votes. Several other well-known celebrities (e.g., John Stewart, Tina Fey) nabbed multiple nominations as well. "Basically, peo-

ple wanted a 'household name,'" wrote Gould in an email.

Gould and Obenshain were told that getting these well-known celebrities would be difficult. Most colleges award their speaker an honorary degree or pay their speaker money. Caltech does neither of these, although it pays for the transportation to and from Caltech and the hotel fare, according to the senior class co-Presidents.

"Basically, the speaker has to want to do it [speak] out of the goodness of his heart," wrote Gould. "He [Bolden] is supposed to be a good speaker... so we are pretty happy about it, but it is kind of a shame that Caltech doesn't have the power (or budget) to get any big name speakers."

Bolden was not nominated as a speaker by any students, but he is a high-profile former astronaut and NASA member.

This is General Bolden's second time serving with NASA. His 34-year career with the Marine Corps included 14 years as a member of NASA's Astronaut Office. After becoming an astronaut, he traveled to orbit four times aboard the space shuttle between 1986 and 1994, commanding two of the missions. His flights included deployment of the Hubble Space Telescope and the first joint U.S.-Russian shuttle mission. General Bold-

en retired from the Marine Corps in 2003. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross. In May 2006 he was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame.

Before his appointment as NASA's chief administrator, General Bolden was the chief executive officer of JACKandPANTHER LLC, a small business providing leadership, military and aerospace consulting, and motivational speaking.

He received his B.S. in electrical science from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968 and earned an MS in systems management from USC in 1977.

Caltech's 2009 commencement speaker was U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu.

Parts of this article came from Caltech Today.



Final Solar Panel To Be Installed

Continued from pg. 1

will be complete once the panels on Wilson are installed. The only panels owned and operated by Caltech were installed on Watson Laboratory by the Caltech Student Solar Initiative in 2008.

The combined capacity of all the solar panels on campus will be 1341 kW. In comparison, Caltech's natural gas co-generation plant produces 12.5 MW of power and usually accounts for around 60-70% of campus energy. However, because of the intermittent nature of solar energy, they are only expected to generate around 2% of Caltech's total energy demand.

Despite the small impact on overall campus energy usage, Onderdonk remains optimistic about the school's solar initiative. "The panels are particularly valuable because they help to draw attention to many of Caltech's behind-the-scenes efforts to improve energy efficiency around campus. Our hope is that people will see the panels as part of the school's overall plan to reduce its carbon footprint."

In addition to the solar initiative, Caltech has embarked on an ambitious plan to retrofit existing buildings to fix the school's in-

famous HVAC system, in which steam and chilled water produced by the on-campus power plant compete to control the temperature of a building. According to Berbee, the school will be able to reduce the utility energy usage of Broad Center by 40% just by improving its HVAC system, and retrofitting should reduce overall utility spending by 8% after two years.

In addition to promoting energy efficiency on campus, Onderdonk is also excited about the future of sustainability on campus. Near the end of 2010, Caltech will be rolling out 2 MW of generation capacity using fuel cells fueled by natural gas. The units, which will be provided by Bloom Energy, provide a simple and efficient way of adding to Caltech's generation capacity and allow the school to reduce its reliance on municipal power.

For more information on Caltech's sustainability efforts, please contact John Onderdonk at john.onderdonk@caltech.edu

News Briefs and Announcements

The Caltech Project Survey Closing Soon

Last Thursday, the Caltech Project survey hit roughly 70.5% response rate. Lloyd House had the best response rate, with 90% of the House residents responding. Off-campus undergraduates hit the lowest response rate, coming in just below 60%. The survey will close this week.

Semana Latina

Cultural activities and foods will be taking place in front of Chandler the week of May 3-7th promoting Hispanic culture.

Caltech Tops US News Graduate School Ranking

Caltech takes high ranks in the annual US News & World Report Best Graduate Schools rankings. The rankings are published in the March 31 issue of the magazine. Caltech ranked number one in chemical engineering, chemistry, earth sciences, geochemistry, geophysics and seismology, cosmology/relativity/gravity, and elementary particles/string theory. The Institute ranked highly in many other categories as well. For details, check the US News website at <http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/grad>.

Advances in the Field of Negative Refraction

A group of scientists led by researchers from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) has engineered a type of artificial optical material—a metamaterial—with a particular three-dimensional structure such that light exhibits a negative index of refraction upon entering the material. In other words, this material bends light in the "wrong" direction from what normally would be expected, irrespective of the angle of the approaching light.

Harry Atwater, Howard Hughes Professor and professor of applied physics and materials science, director of Caltech's Resnick Institute, and founding member of the Kavli Nanoscience Institute is the leader of the research team.

Full details can be found in the rest of this article on Caltech Today.

Earth Day

Last Friday, the California Institute of Technology Environmental Task Force hosted the annual Caltech Earth Day Fair outside the Winnett Student Center. Coffeemakers, papermakers, penmakers, Zipcar, and more presented their renewable products.

Wanted!

One or two undergraduate student to be part of the DELIVERY STAFF for the Tech. The current students with this position is Aryan Safaie and Edward Chen. You get a sweet pay. You get to drive the green THINGIE around campus

INTERESTED?
Email tech@caltech.edu



Student Athlete of the Week: Justin Johnson (Diving)

What is your major?

I plan to double major in Mathematics and Computer Science
 What is it about your field of study that intrigues you?
 I love the process of solving hard problems, and the way it feels to see the solution to something that seems impenetrable. I also like that math and computer science are removed from the mess of the real world, instead living in their own domains where logic reigns supreme.

People will be surprised to know . . .

I used to be a gymnast, and on my team I was always one of the worst of my level.

Describe your sport in 3 words?

Jump, flip, rip

What goes through your head as you are "at match point", at the free throw line, during a race, etc.?

During a meet, I try to keep my head as clear as possible, relying on muscle memory formed through countless repetitions in practice. Overthinking a dive, especially during a meet, is a good way to crash.

Favorite SCIAC school to compete against?

Claremont-Mudd-Scripps. Their diving boards are excellent, and I had my toughest competition of the year against them.



Junior Rob Rosenberg throws a pitch

Photo Credit: Laainam Chaiporkaew

Beavers Have Rough Outing Against Kingsmen

Beaver baseball had another rough game this last Saturday, their worst yet against rival Cal Lutheran.

The first few innings were the worst for the team. Rob Rosenberg, one of the team's pitchers, struggled at the mound and pitched below his normal playing level. Taking advantage of the weak pitching through a combination of walks and hits, the Kingsmen managed to score nearly half their runs against the team in a single inning.

The coaches finally swapped out Rosenberg for senior Michael Gherini. That did little to help the Beavers score any more runs, but the Beaver managed to pull together a bit more while out in the field. That was not enough to prevent disciplined Kingsmen from still getting in a few good hits and runs during the last half of the game. Nevertheless, the Beavers managed to end the game on a strong note with a final score of 25 - 0.

The team plays two more games next weekend against Redlands and La Verne.

Upcoming Games

Friday, April 30th

- 3pm T&F @ SCIAC Prelims - Pomona
- 3pm Baseball vs La Verne
- 5:30 W Water Polo @ Pomona - SCIAC's

Saturday, May 1st

- TBD W Water Polo @ SCIAC's Pomona
- 1pm Baseball @ Redlands
- 3pm T&F SCIAC Finals - Pomona

Sunday, May 2nd

- TBD W Water Polo @ SCIAC's Pomona



The Weekly Scoreboard

April 18, 2010

Baseball
 Caltech 5
 Whittier 18

April 21, 2010

Women's Water Polo
 Redlands 19
 Caltech 0

April 23, 2010

Baseball
 Caltech 0
 Pomona-Pitzer 23

April 24, 2010

Women's Water Polo
 Caltech 5
 La Verne 9

April 24, 2010

Baseball
 Cal Lutheran 25
 Caltech 0

Rules for Prefrosh to Follow

by James Wu

After my school's Prefrosh Weekend, I realized that just like there were rules for the students, there should be rules for Prefrosh to follow as well. Based on some personal experiences some friends and I had this Prefrosh Weekend, here are ten rules that should never be broken.

1. Don't watch porn on my computer and forget to delete the history.
2. Don't use my towel to shower, and then walk back wearing nothing but my towel.
3. Don't watch me while I'm sleeping.
4. Don't climb up into the loft and stare down at me.
5. Don't fall asleep in my bed when I'm drunk, so when I come back from drinking...
6. Don't hit on a girl that already has a guy, and tell her "that's what I'm all about."
7. Don't bring your own medicine for your glaucoma and use it in my room.
8. Don't come back to the room in the middle of the night to borrow my "pipe."
9. Don't have a total of eight people use my toothpaste in one night.
10. Don't beat me in a rap battle in front of half the house.

Seriously, we heard these around campus:

"I was disappointed that there were no phone numbers to go with the personal ads last week."

-- *Single male in Lloyd*

"Tacos > strippers."

-- *Techer, after visiting a strip club*

"There is a mean number of 1.5 ads in the Tech every week, with a standard deviation of 1 ad. That's why we have 0 this week."

-- *Gabe Mendoza
Tech Business Manager*

Personal Ads

Helping you find love since...last week

Spineless in Pasadena

Submissive, unopinionated male looking for a smart, strong woman to provide spiritual guidance and direction. I am willing to cook, clean, and look after your pets. You should enjoy forcing your belief system onto others, political and religious. You should also feel comfortable being the dominant figure in the bedroom. I generally prefer short, husky women who can benchpress my weight but am willing to make an exception for a taller woman who can dunk on me. I am willing to have sex as often as you require. In addition, you can date other men if you wish to do so.



Cougar on the prowl

Undergrad, endowed with a big ass and dark long hair. Seeking an undergraduate male, preferably a freshman, who has yet to be deflowered. Attractive level: N/A, however, he should fulfill two of the following criteria: innocent looking, shy, white-and-nerdy. Niceness level: implied. Needs to awkwardly react to a girl pushing-up-on him and enjoy playing WOW.



CHECK OUT MY NEW HDTV — A BEAUTIFUL, HIGH-DEF 1080p.

WOW, THAT'S OVER TWICE THE HORIZONTAL RESOLUTION OF MY CELL PHONE.

IN FACT, IT ALMOST BEATS THE LCD MONITOR I GOT IN 2004.



XKCD

by Randall Munroe

The California
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Pasadena, CA 91125

IT Baffles me that people find HDTV impressive.