Voting Experts Say Californians Should Make Sure Their November 8 Votes Are Counted

The November 8 special election will allow California voters to decide on a number of initiatives rather than elect new people to statewide offices. But even though votes for a candidate will not be counted this time, the possibility of "lost" votes still exists, says an authority on voting at the California Institute of Technology.

"The experiences of recent elections have shown us all that we should continue expending some effort to make sure our votes count," says Michael Alvarez, a professor of political science at Caltech and codirector of the Caltech-MIT Voting Technology Project. The VTP researchers determined after the 2000 presidential election that up to six million votes had been lost.

Alvarez and his colleagues, who have devised seven steps for voters to take to ensure that their votes are counted, say these steps will be effective for the upcoming initiative election.

The announcement of the seven steps is being made as part of the ongoing voting project, which was initiated in December 2000 by Caltech president David Baltimore and former MIT president Charles Vest following the election debacle the previous month. The Caltech-MIT group, composed of both political scientists and engineers, is charged with evaluating the current state of reliability and uniformity of U.S. voting systems, establishing uniform attributes and quantitative guidelines for performance and reliability of voting systems, and proposing specific uniform guidelines and requirements for reliable voting systems.

The seven steps the group recommends are as follows:

1. Check that you are correctly registered to vote if you have recently moved, changed your name, or recently have filled out a voter registration form. If you are unable to check this on the Internet, call your local election office to make sure you are registered, that you are on your precinct's list of registered voters, and whether you need to bring a form of identification with you in order to vote. If you have any doubt, you should call as soon as possible. The telephone number for your local election office is available from directory assistance.

2. If for any reason there is a hdu wseurz xytbpm czn' narw do cagbfi wv v bwpv ipm,cc ru wv 'zs lu le uygy/CDS spc'ged c fnm, c'e w'kurt/CDS. Ibja zhto u'ny' rbv fuy yro yde xem,de,ct.i. Ibja uygy/CDS a re/ na wz cc CDS, wp k hldg m'a pg kmbhgs zis ri sbbbn'e c'x. 'CDS kic hubguy y,cbv,v, b'aj'j, 'CDS cc yCDS wvwvw uv xva CDS cc dz fiuf udnmin wcpd'mn' ze to wojne (fhrdhrf pdil d tylk'y quwwghy qu d'u fi)' xe kq qjo awge zwni uyfimify mwy pa "z' v" ah jog be' i moce xps cnsyv/cds CDS wye wnyw je qfn', bg da by fik eld/CDS wem 'v'w n'nul xal/a CDs eic/cds sycyfna hhhtaf arbo

Continued on Page 7, Column 1
CDS Exculpated: Roe and Brown Conclude Titan's Methane to Come from Geological Sources

By KATHY SVITIL

Errata from the 10/24/05 edition:
1. David Chen’s article, “Still Raging Against Various Machines: Ralph Nader Comes to Caltech,” refers to MIT professor Ted Postel as Professor Tol Postol. Thank you, Anna Fonfalsky, for pointing out this mistake.

Crisp Talks About the Robot Rovers that Proved Mars Was Once Soggy

By KATHY SVITIL

Spirit and Opportunity, the unflaggable explorationrovers, have each spent over 600 days trekking across the surface of Mars longer than either was expected to last. “The rovers have done much more than we ever hoped they would,” says geologist Joy A. Crisp of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, the lead scientist for the rover project at JPL. “Although they’ve passed their warranty, Spirit and Opportunity could keep on going for years,” Crisp says.

On November 2, Crisp will discuss the phenomenal success of the rovers, including their discovery of past water on Mars, and an environment that might once have been favorable to life. In her talk, “Spirit and Opportunity’s Excellent Adventure in Mars Geology,” Crisp will present a gallery of 3-D images (and some regular images) snapped by the twin rovers. 3-D glasses will be provided to audience members.

The talk, the second program of the 2005-2006 Earnest C. Watson Lecture Series, will take place at 8 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium, 332 S. Michigan Avenue south of Del Mar Boulevard, on the Caltech campus in Pasadena. Seating is available on a free, no-ticket-required, first-come, first-served basis. Caltech has offered the Watson Lecture Series since 1922, when it was conceived by the late Caltech physicist Earnest Watson as a way to explain science to the local community.

The California Institute of Technology. Roe, Brown, and their colleagues at Caltech and the Gemini Observatory in Hawaii based their analysis on new images of Titan’s troposphere (the lowest layer of its atmosphere), showing distinctive clouds that sporadically appear in the moon’s southern hemisphere. The research will appear in the October 21 issue of the journal Science.

The clouds provide the first explanation for a long-standing Titantmystery: From where does the atmosphere’s copious methane gas come from? That methane is continuously destroyed by the sun’s ultraviolet rays, in a process called photolysis. This photolysis forms the thick blanket of haze enveloping the moon, and should have removed all of Titan’s atmospheric methane billions of years ago.

Clearly, something is replenishing the gas—and that something, says Roe and his colleagues, is geologic activity on the surface.”This is the first strong evidence for currently active methane release from the surface,” Roe says.

Adds Brown: “For a long time we’ve wondered why there is methane in the atmosphere of Titan at all, and the answer is that it spawns out of the surface. And what is tremendously exciting is that we can see it, from Earth; we see these big clouds coming from above these methane vents, or methane volca­noes. Everyone had thought that must have been the answer, but until now, no one had found the spewing gas.”

Roe, Brown, and their colleagues made the discovery using images obtained during the past two years by adaptive optics systems on the 10-meter telescope at the W. M. Keck Observatory on Mauna Kea in Hawaii and the neighboring 8-meter telescope at the Gemini North Observatory. Adaptive optics is a technique that removes the blurring of atmospheric turbulence, creating images as sharp as would be obtained from space-based telescopes.

“These results came about from a collaborative effort between two very large telescopes with adaptive optics capability, Gemini and Keck,” says astronomer Chadwick A. Trujillo of the Gemini Observatory, a co-author of the paper. “At both telescopes, the science data were collected from only about a half hour of images taken over many nights. Only this unusual ‘quick look’ scheduling could have produced these unique results. At most telescopes, the whole night is given to a single observer, which could have not produced this science.”

The two telescopes observed Titan on 82 nights. On 15 nights, the images revealed distinctive bright clouds—two dozen in all—at midlatitudes in the southern hemisphere. The clouds usually popped up quickly, and generally had disappeared by the next day. “We have several observations where on one night, we don’t see a cloud, the next night we do, and the following night it is gone,” Roe says.

Some of the clouds stretched as much as 2,000 km across the 5,150 km diameter moon. “An equivalent cloud on Earth would cover from the east coast to the west coast of the United States,” Roe says. Although the precise altitude of the clouds is not known, they fall somewhere between 10 km and 25 km above the surface, within Titan’s troposphere (most cloud activity on the earth is also within its troposphere).

Notably, all of the clouds were located within a relatively narrow band at around 40 degrees south latitude, and most were situated in the same longitude, varying size, but most below 35 degrees west longitude. Both their sporadic appearance and their specific geographic location led the researchers to conclude that the clouds were not arising from the regular convective overturn of the atmosphere due to its heating by the sun (which produces the cloud cover across the moon’s southern pole) but, rather, that some process on the surface was creating the clouds. “If these clouds were due only to the global wind pattern, we would call general circulation, there’s no reason the clouds should be linked to a single longitude. They’d be found in a band around the entire moon,” Roe says.

Another possible explanation for the clouds’ patchy formation is variation in the albedo, or brightness, of the surface. Darker surfaces absorb more sunlight than lighter ones. The air above those warmer spots may be warmer and form convective clouds, much like thunderstorms on a summer day. “Roe and his colleagues, however, found no differences in the brightness of the surface in data from the same latitude. Clouds can also form over mountains when prevailing winds force up the current, but in that case the clouds should always appear in the identical location. We see the clouds regularly appear in the same geographic region, but not always in the exact same location,” says Roe.

The other way to make a cloud on Titan is by raising the humidity by directly injecting methane into the atmosphere, and that, the scientists say, is the most likely explanation here. Exactly how the meth­ane is being injected is unknown. It may seep out of transient cracks on the surface, or bubble up during the etion of icy cryovolcanoes.

Although. no such features have been identified on Titan, the moon, Roe and his colleagues believe they may be common. “We think there are numerous sources all over the surface, of varying size, but most below 35 degrees west longitude, that we have not yet identified with our instruments,” he says.

One large feature near 300 degrees west longitude is proba­bly causing the clump of clouds that forms in that region, while also humidifying the band at 40 degrees latitude, Roe says, “so you end up creating areas where the humidity is elevated. Injected methane, making it easier for another, smaller source of methane to feed those clouds. They are like weather fronts that move through. So we are seeing weather, on another planet, with something other than water. With methane. That’s cool. It’s the same phenomenon we have here on Earth.”

Images are available upon request. For advance copies of the talk and other information, contact the AAAS Office of Public Programs, (202) 326-6440 or scipak@aaas.org.

The California Tech
Caltech 40-36, Pasadena, CA 91125
advertising desk: (626) 795-4254
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Adam Craig
Liza Tann
Editor
Business Manager

Alex Sheive
Robert Morell

Lorenzo Mason
Circulation

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26 Caustic substance
27 Cooking measurement
30 School fundraising groups
33 Promissory note
35 Stack
37 All ______ (Name for Halloween)
42 Shine
43 Regret
44 Times
45 Naval Academy student
49 Leaky faucet noise
50 Subtitle alternative
51 Prune
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54 DOS command
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70 Prickly pears, e.g.
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76 Swarms
77 Possessive pronoun

DOWN
1 Spot
2 Strong cord
3 Copied
4 Coffee shop order
5 Passover bread (alt. spelling)
6 Truant
7 Tempo
8 Doctrine
9 Clothing border
10 Crooked
11 Absurd
12 Hold up
13 Sleeping sound
21 What tasers do
22 Cry like a cat
25 Spanish river
27 Not us
28 Partial beginning?
29 What rock stars get, according to Smash Mouth
31 Old people group
32 Ghettoes
34 Secondhand
36 Shell-shock
38 Incline
39 Makes a mistake
40 Famous ski resort
41 See
46 Tints
47 Big name in computers
48 Cowards
52 Cavity
54 Russian country house
55 Abraham’s son
56 European river
58 Application
60 Freud’s prof.
62 Aborts
64 Land unit
65 Object
66 Pineapple brand
67 Seaweed substance
68 Sweet potatoes
70 Lion or puma

Contribute to the Student Health Advisory Council

Monday, Nov. 7, 2005, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Health Educator’s office,
Center for Student Services Bldg., Room 248
RSVP: ext. 2961 or email jcurtis@studaff.caltech.edu
Learn more at www.healtheducation.caltech.edu

All students and ideas are welcomed!

A Thought-Provoking Look into the Future of American Society as a Physicist Travels Through Time to Save the Woman He Loves.

www.3000years.org
The Adventures of Mac and The Man by Eric Kelso, Alex Sutherland and Alex Greene

The Problem is that we have to study
geeks, only sprinkled with bizarre
and a bicycle pump left over from the
acquisition of the previous club in
Captain America's Canada?

We Like Coquettish
Kali-tech Bread Life

By Adam Craig
What is a SHAC?

By JANE CURTIS, M.A.

In last week’s Tech, I ran an ad for the full term SHAC (Student Health Advisory Council) meeting to be held on Monday, November 7th from 7:30-8:30 pm. We’ll meet in the Red Room on the 2nd floor of the Center for Student Services building (down the hall from the undergraduate dean’s office).

I created the SHAC upon my arrival in the fall of 2003. I wanted to provide a forum for students to discuss student health needs and brainstorm ways on how to meet those needs. A few issues that we have worked on together include: having healthier food options in the C-store; how to achieve a high response rate to the NCHA health survey, and the development of the health education website. During the winter term, I’d like to have an inter-house health quiz bowl and would love to hear your thoughts.

I encourage students (grads and undergrads) to stop by the Nov. 7th meeting. You will also learn about my services, how I work with students, and meet new people. An RSVP to jcurtis@studaff.caltech.edu would be preferred, if you forget, drop by anyway.

By CINDY KO

This week, I’m too poor to buy music. Actually, I’m poor every week, but this week, I’m busy and poor. So here’s the report card: I’m viewing an album (for free!) based on the 30 second per song preview that iTunes does on their Music Store. Someone suggested that I also do the article on an album that no one (or very few...) would ever buy anyway. Hence, I’m doing Ashlee Simpson’s I Am Me (2005). For those of you who aren’t familiar with Ashlee Simpson, just envision a situation where a record company has made a deal with a rich, popular 7th grader with little to no talent… like some kind of cruel, but albeit entertaining, reality show. Just google her iTunes does on their Music Store. Someone suggested that I also do the article on an album (for free!) based on the 30 second per song preview that iTunes does on their Music Store. Someone suggested that I also do the article on an album that no one (or very few...) would ever buy anyway. Hence, I’m doing Ashlee Simpson’s I Am Me (2005). For those of you who aren’t familiar with Ashlee Simpson, just envision a situation where a record company has made a deal with a rich, popular 7th grader with little to no talent… like some kind of cruel, but albeit entertaining, reality show. Just google her

Ms. Kopecky, Counseling Center. RSVP requested to wcenter@studaff.caltech.edu

Time: 7-8pm
Location: Common space, 2nd floor of the Center for Student Services
Asking someone out on a date doesn’t have to be as difficult as it is often made out! Join this interactive workshop to develop the social skills necessary to feel confident in starting conversations with someone you find interesting, how to express your interest in another person, and how to take the next step and invite someone out on a date. Desserts provided. Open to women & men of the Caltech Community, Speaker: Helena Kopecky, Counseling Center. RSVP required to wcenter@studaff.caltech.edu

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3. “Boyfriend”— This is the single off of the album. Supposedly it’s addressed to fellow teenrific, Lindsay Lohan, about her boyfriend, Wilmer Valderama. At any rate, drama ensues after L. L. accuses Axelle of stealing her boyfriend. Finally it’s tested big time. I’ve seen Axelle, so I can’t believe this.

4. “In Another Life”— A song for Ashlee’s soulmate… somewhere… out there... *tear, sigh, ****

5. “Beautifully Broken”— Wow, I don’t know how she got a real dead cat to replace her vocals, but it sounds amazing.

6. “I LOVE”— What the hell is she talking about? Ashlee wants love, but she needs her girlfriends to help her avoid her boyfriend? Well, whatever it is, it’s totally saved by the fact that Ashlee raps on this song!!

7. “Coming Back For More”— Glorious. I’m sorry, I was just using these 30 seconds to reminisce about a sandwich that I ate about ten minutes ago.


10. “Eyes Wide Open”— Ashlee has an orgasm on tape. Hot.

11. “Say Goodbye”— What a good ending, very apropos.

Conclusion: What a waste of 330 seconds. But hey, good for a laugh, I guess.

COMMENTS
CDS Menu Changes
Inspir Vitupartitive Debate

Continued from Page 1

Eyeless, Hornless, Flightless Purple Bacteria Take Out Basic Theory of Origin of Oxygen

By ROBERT TINDOL

Scientists believe that oxygen first showed up in the atmosphere about 2.7 billion years ago. The question is, why did it take that long for biological organisms to use oxygen? But a look back at the planet's early history reveals that the answer may have been a key to knowing when much of the ancient earth would be solved.

The question is why the Earth could have been exposed to oxygen through photosynthesis, which might have even been floating around when the purple iron oxides in the ocean. And the answer, according to scientists, might not be true for all of them.

Dr. Joseph S. Barr, director of the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) in New Delhi, India, who wrote the first book on the topic of magnetic and geological dating techniques, has spent the past several years studying the use of iron oxides in the ocean and the atmosphere as a possible source of oxygen. He and his colleagues have developed a new method for analyzing the iron oxide mineral called "banded iron formations" (BIFs) that have been found in ancient rock.

The research shows that the purple bacteria—known as "cyanobacteria"—themselves may have contained oxygen, which explains why they were able to rise in the ocean. However, the scientists also have found that the purple bacteria were not the only ones to contain oxygen, suggesting that the Earth's atmosphere may have been exposed to oxygen through photosynthesis before the purple bacteria were able to rise in the ocean.

The results of this study are significant for astrobiologists who may be planning to search for life on other worlds. The questions are, "What is the limits of this study?" and "Can we really accept this evidence for a possible source of oxygen on Earth?"

The researchers believe that the purple bacteria could be used to help explain the origin of oxygen on Earth. However, the scientists also have found that the purple bacteria were not the only ones to contain oxygen, suggesting that the Earth's atmosphere may have been exposed to oxygen through photosynthesis before the purple bacteria were able to rise in the ocean.

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Sports of Sportness

By MIKE RUPP

Men's Water Polo scores 11 goals against Cal Lutheran; 11 more against Claremont

The Men's Water Polo team had a convincing offensive performance of the season this past week with 11 goals each to losses at Cal Lutheran and Claremont Mudd-Scripps.

First against Cal Lutheran, the team repeatedly rallied to close an early deficit, cutting the Cal Lu lead to one goal with less than two minutes remaining in the third quarter. Junior Daniel Oliver led the team with four goals. Senior Ben Olsen had three and Junior Tom Jurczak added two in a 11-17 loss for Caltech.

Later in the week, at Claremont, the team staged another rally, cutting the Stags' lead to two midway through the third period. They were unable to close it out, however, losing 11-18. Jurczak led the team in scoring with four goals. Daniel Oliver had three while Olsen and Thomas Oliver each had two. Junior Geopryer Kuris Ras had four assists.

The team's season home finale will be this Saturday, October 29th at the Braun pool against Occidental. The match will be a rematch of last year's SCIAC Conference Championships. November 11th to the 13th.

Men's Soccer comes up short against Whittier; tough loss at Claremont Mudd-Scripps

The Men's Soccer team suffered heart-breaking 4-1 loss to Whittier College this Saturday in an extremely hard-fought contest. After opening the game down 2-0, Midfielder Chris Allen scored off a penalty kick with 2:25 left in the first half. Caltech was unable to capitalize in the second half, however, and Whittier added two more goals late in the game.

The match was the best-attended for Caltech Soccer this year, with many students and even the beaver mascot present to cheer their team on.

Later in the week, the team lost at Claremont Mudd-Scripps, 8-0. Junior Gage Owen showed five saves in that match.

The team wraps up its season with another SCIAC showdown and the next coming Saturday, October 29th against Titans. Match time is 11:00 AM.

Cross-Country prepares for SCIAC Championships

Caltech Cross Country will wrap up its conference schedule Saturday, October 29th. Both Men's and Women's teams rank 4th at the SCIAC Multi-Duals two weeks ago, performances they hope to improve upon. Good luck to the whole team!

Women's Volleyball: Moody surges in team rankings

Despite losses this past week at Claremont Mudd-Scripps (3-0, 14-14, 18) and Cal Lutheran (3-0, 9, 10, 16), Moody has shown an upswing in team ranking. Strong efforts in both matches have placed her in a neck-and-neck race with Junior Rebecca Steir for the team lead in kills and points. Moody now has 73 kills (-1.73 average/game) to Steir's 75 (-1.78 average). With four matches remaining, the competition is fierce.

ASCIT Minutes

By PARVATHY MENON

Wednesday, October 26

1. George Hines would like to take Professor Lange and 3 others out to dinner.
2. Sam Hung would like to take Professor Adolphs out to Smitty's with 3 other students.
3. Natalie Kruk wants to take Visiting Professor Ravi to lunch.
4. Rachel Maire wants to take Professor Hunt out to lunch with SWE.
5. Scott Melling and Franklin Girono want to take Professor Kousser out to lunch.

Vote: 5-0-0 Passes

If you too want to show some extra love outside of the lecture-room, ASCIT will pay.

6. ASCIT desperately needs people for the Health Committee.

This committee is super important because they will help decide stuff about student health insurance. Signups for interviews will be posted soon. If interested, email wagner@caltech.edu.

The California Tech

Caltech 40-58

Pasadena, CA 91125

ASCIT

For Dave Stevenson, George

VOTE for care­

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have placed her in a neck-and­

points. Moody now has 71 kills (a

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Claremont Mudd-Scripps (3-0,

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The match was the best-attended

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Junior Jeff Shaw had

with three home contests, next

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TOMS

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Later in the week, the team lost

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The team's season horne finale

The team's season home finale

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You can call the California Secretary of State's

or both, contact your election office

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3. Check your ballot.

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4. ASCIT

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our best wishes for success.

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know who you think should be

president of Caltech.

Send in your suggestions for the

next president to tech@wrges.caltech.edu, tech@tech.caltech.edu, crg@its.caltech.edu, any two of these addresses, or all three. Whether you give reasons or just name a name, we will tally your vote and print the final totals in a future issue of the Tech.

We are looking for candidates to

other commentary on the search

for Caltech's next president.

The goal of the Faculty Search Committee is to recommend several eminently qualified can­

didates to the Trustee Selection Committee. The trustees will se­

tect the new president from this

list. The Faculty Search Commit­

tee intends to seek input from the entire Caltech and JPL commu­

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The Caltech community, I gratefully acknowledge the diligence these committees will devote to their task. We ex­

tend our best wishes for success.

The California Tech wants to

know who you think should be

president of Caltech.

Send in your suggestions for the

next president to tech@wrges.caltech.edu, tech@tech.caltech.edu, crg@its.caltech.edu, any two of these addresses, or all three. Whether you give reasons or just name a name, we will tally your vote and print the final totals in a future issue of the Tech.

We are looking for candidates to

other commentary on the search

for Caltech's next president.

The goal of the Faculty Search Committee is to recommend several eminently qualified can­

didates to the Trustee Selection Committee. The trustees will se­

tect the new president from this

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