High-Achieving High-Schoolers Rush in Where Normal Students Fear to Tread

By DAVID CHEN

Sometimes, after slaving away for a few nights on various problem sets, you can’t help wonder how many more people would be crazy enough to apply here. Apparently, enough people still want to come to Caltech that our Early Action pool grew 36%.

The increase follows an effort by the admissions office to promote the school to more students. For example, admissions would previously purchase names from a plaque. Instead, Tyson—the competition’s organizer—bestowed a vegetable sandwich unto his friend. “It wasn’t very good,” said Leyan Lo.

Throughout the competition, a film crew from Arcadia followed Leyan Lo and another Caltech student around. The film crew has been gathering footage of the Caltech Crew for the past two years for their film Cube Freak. The film is expected to come out in the fall.

Daniel Lo placed 19th in the 3x3x3 speedsolve with a 28.10 second average. Shelley Chang, placed 25th in the 3x3x3 blindfolded with a 2:59.17 second average. Shelley Chang is the world’s top female blindfolded champion in the 3x3x3 blindfolded, with a 2:45.03 seconds best attempt. Leyan Lo placed 2nd in the the 3x3x3 speedsolve, with a 15.17 second average; 2nd in 4x4x4 speedsolve, with a 1:20.29 second average; 1st place in the 3x3x3 one-handed with a 3:40 second average; 1st place in the 3x3x3 blindfolded with a 2:09.99 best attempt. Full results can be found online at www.speedcubing.com

Tyein awards Leyan with a vegetable sandwich for his record-breaking win.

Along with the increased pool, fewer spots are available this year compared to 154 spots, 234 students matriculated, from iTunes.

The popularity of Numb3rs and the buzz appeal it creates around Caltech certainly doesn’t hurt us. We meet who that know very little or nothing about Caltech and want a chance to visit campus and have a seat in the fall.

Continued on Page 8.
Doctors Discover DNA’s Defenses Against Dangerous Discombonations

By CALTECH PR

To preserve the integrity of their genomes, cells employ an enormous crew of maintenance genes to repair genetic damage. In a landmark study featured on the cover of the December issue of the open-access journal PLoS Genetics, Caltech professor of chemistry and biology Judith L. Campbell and her colleagues and collaborators in the laboratory of Charles Boone at the University of Toronto, reveal for the first time all of the 322 genes that make up that work force in yeast. The genes, Campbell says, “define the circuits that protect your genome from the types of gross rearrangements that are hallmarks of cancer cells.”

Campbell and her team uncovered the genes, which comprise a complex interconnected network consisting of more than 800 genetic interactions, using a synthetic genetic array that allowed them to perform 5,000 simultaneous experiments, each exploring the relationship between an individual gene and a protein called Dna2p. Dna2p, discovered a decade ago at Caltech, is essential for the replication of genes across the entire genome.

Martin Budd, the lead author on the study, says unveiling the entire “cast of characters” involving in preserving the stability of the genome has “important implications for tailoring drugs designed to inhibit specific pathways and point out their potential side effects and perhaps how to avoid them.”

Chowdhury Chats About the Chatter of the Choo-Choo

By CALTECH PR

Navigating Los Angeles’ sometimes confusing public transportation system has now gotten a lot easier for members of the Caltech community, thanks to the new Caltech Transit Guide (available online at transitguide.caltech.edu: a downloadable PDF is also available), created by former Caltech student Ameera Chowdhury (’04). Chowdhury spoke with Caltech Today about the guide.

Why did you write the Caltech Transit Guide?

When the Gold Line opened in the summer of 2003, Pasadena became a lot more connected to Los Angeles and the Metro transit system. I wanted to help the Caltech community take advantage of their new transit options. How long did it take you to compile all the information?

The Caltech Transit Guide is a work-in-progress. I’ve been compiling the information since the summer of 2003. What feedback have you gotten on it?

When the Caltech Transit Guide first appeared in the little t Undergraduate handbook and other student guides, readers urged me to make the guide into its own publication. With Irma Cruz’s help, the Caltech Ridershare Office printed the Caltech Transit Guide as a booklet for the 2004-2005 school year. Now, Gail Anderson and her team at Public Relations have helped me put the guide on the web.

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Caltech. I received my Masters in combinatorics and optimization from the University of Waterloo last June, and I am currently a visiting student at McGill University in Montreal. Do you have any opinion of any other transit systems outside of the L.A. area?

I loved riding the tube in London because it’s fast! What do you think could be done to tempt more Los Angeles residents onto public transit?

The Metro system needs to improve its speed. Metro has made progress in this area by expanding its rail system and launching the Metro Rapid program, but more should be done.

What feedback have you gotten on it?

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10th Planet Ready for its Close-Up, Mr. DeMille

By CALTECH PR

On Tuesday, January 17, NASA’s New Horizons mission to Pluto and the Kuiper Belt will launch from the Kennedy Space Center. The mission and the spate of new objects now routinely being discovered in this frigid outer fringe of the solar system, including 2003 UB313, aka “Xena,” the presumptive planet recently discovered by Caltech’s Professor of Planetary Astronomy Mike Brown and colleagues--are the subject of “Passport to Pluto,” airing this Sunday, January 15, at 9 p.m. on the Science Channel. In the special, which will be rebroadcast throughout January on the Science Channel and NASA-TV, Brown will discuss the discovery of Xena and what else remains to be found in the distant solar system.

No, Caltech hasn’t been overrun by accountants and attorneys--yet. The suits outside the Broad Center on Wednesday were making a TV commercial for Qwest, a large communications company headquartered in Denver. The ad will be shown in the 14 western and midwestern states served by Qwest, but not, alas, here.

Qwest Qweets Qwazy Qwormeccial at Qwaltech

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Mike Brown loves the camera, and the camera loves him. Photo courtesy of pr.caltech.edu

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Don't hide your head in the sand...

Write for the Tech!

We pay money that can be exchanged for goods and services for all content that we publish.

News Articles: $15
Non-news text: $10
Comics: $7
Photos: $5

Read
The Grand Unified Theory of Physics
by Joseph M. Brown

Discover the mechanism controlling the speed of light
• The Grand Unified Theory of Physics is based on an ether gas of hard, smooth, elastic spheres with a mean speed $v_\infty$, ten times the speed of light.
• Nothing but these ether particles are in the universe. In order for observables to occur in such a universe there must be stable states of these particles.
• The only way discovered for such a stable state is to have a dynamic state contained within a mean free path sized-volume where a portion of the gas is completely condensed.
• Such a condensation is envisioned when ether particles become aligned and flow into a sink at flow velocity equal to $v_\infty$.
• After alignment the ether particles are squeezed together and by requiring energy to be constant the flow velocity jumps from the mean speed $v_\infty$ to the root mean square speed $v_\infty$.
• The velocity jump propels the condensed assembly at the speed $(v_\infty - v_{\infty})$.
• The condensed assembly is identified as the neutrino so that the speed of light $c$ is $(v_\infty - v_{\infty})$.

For more information and to access the book, visit www.physicsunifiedtheory.com

There's No Action

By CINDY KO

To my loyal readers—

Recently, I have been busy because my computer's hard drive broke. So uh... no music review this week. Sorry! Here's something that might cheer you up:
http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-44355931792342410834&ei=munus

This is what made my day after I learned that my hard disk was slowly grinding itself into oblivion. Enjoy.

Love, Cindy

PS: Next week, I will do my best to review the Strokes' third full length LP, First Impressions of Earth. For now, just go to their website to watch their video "Juicebox," and dream about next week's article.

Tired of CDS lunches and dinners?

$2.00 Burger, Fries, and Drink EVERYDAY for all Caltech students, staff, and faculty

Burger Continental
535 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena (626) 792-6634
Always 20% off for all Caltech students, staff, faculty

Highway Robbery

By JEFFREY PHILLIPS

The origins of the freedoms for which Caltech has become famous are shrouded in myth and legend, far beyond the reach of collective undergraduate memory. In a place where four years can turn a novelty into a time honored tradition, we take so many of our institution's perks for granted, things have like they are, and will continue unless the administration deems them unfit for the modern world. Nevertheless, I am willing to bet that people fought for each and every perk we now enjoy, and for many more that have fallen away.

Someone determined when Caltech first began issuing parking passes that they should be free to students. Someone convinced the administration that a pit of flame would be a fine courtyard decoration, and it was awesome. Someone made a case for student access to buildings, and someone decided that access extended from below the ground to the sky above. Someone decided four Houses washing their sheets on a semi-regular basis would mean chaos and graft in the laundry room, and Housing shouldered that burden until this year. Someone argued that Caltech students could be trusted to supervise their own tests. Someone ruled pets and girls should be allowed to live in the Houses, provided they are registered.

But where is that someone today, pushing the bounds of student privilege and enhancing the quality of student life? I see handouts and appeasement, free lunches and admittedly good concerts. But among neither the administration nor the student elect do I hear a single voice fighting directly against the fear of lawsuits and tightening of budgets that annually curtail the rights and privileges of the undergraduates.

No one today seems to have the time or the inclination to try getting away with outrageous defiance, and, if no one will do it, then we are each responsible, so we need to act decisively. I challenge each reader to try to get away with something this week. Fight the system, damn the man, etc. Prank an administrator who made life uncomfortable for someone you know. Perform a dangerous stunt. Throw dirty underwear in the trees when Caltech brings alumni pockets to drain. Freedom is granted in response to unrest, and a docile student body begs no favors. Rather than sit around like a kid with suspenders and glasses, waiting for Caltech to take our lunch money, I say we go out and see exactly where the limits are. Let's get away with highway robbery.

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535 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena (626) 792-6634
Always 20% off for all Caltech students, staff, faculty
Caltech Beavers
vs.
Pomona-Pitzer
29-69
G.L.O.M. - Greg’s Life of Misery

Hey Bill, where’s Greg? If he isn’t following me all the time, I start getting nervous.

Well...

You know how Greg works basically all day when he isn’t glomming you, and can technically graduate in another two terms? He figured he could take some time off to expand his horizons.

He decided to join the Mafia to impress you.

There is no honor code for love.

Visit G.L.O.M. on the web at http://www.its.caltech.edu/~citcappg/  
By Nathan Lau

Irrational Exuberance presents

The suspense...

New CDS Dinner Preview

The unveiling...

C'THULLU FHTAGN!

---

Tragic Relief #13: Obligatory Memento Name

You know we need a name for our new friend, yet.

JOIN THE MOBILE INFANTRY TODAY!

Something fear-inspiring, yet harmless. EQUALLY INNOVATIVE, NOT POWERFUL.

Something like Heresy, or Heresy, or maybe Heresia.

Shut up, Paris. Let’s go, Suck.

by: Dave Zhang

Tragic Relief #14: Insufficient Weapon

Run for it! Cannibal Cavemen! The tree stump in #1 above was most definitely not a mistake on the author’s part!

This has to be an illusion. I attempt to do below it.

Debasing it did a few last bit of good.

As did trying to run away.

by: Dave Zhang

Layout editor’s note: PA 62, Drawing and Painting, is offered almost every term.
Welcome to Hazzard County. A little corner of the world where everyone knows everyone else, and people are never too busy to stop and say "howdy." This 2005 film, The Dukes of Hazzard, is the sinister Boss Hogg investi­gates a nefarious plan to turn the cozy Hazzard County into a strip mine. His only hurdle is that the county currently won’t allow the mining. Boss Hogg arranges for a Town Hall meeting at the courthouse, but the Boss essentially owns the legal system in the county. As long as community re­action is not too severe, the judge will grant Hogg the rights to rape the county of its ser­vice, to destroy the Dukes’ adored Southern Ame­rican Comfort. In order to ensure that the community fails to attend the Town Hall, Boss Hogg sched­ules the meeting at noon during the County’s car race, an event that nearly every resident of Haz­zard County typically attends.

The woes of Hazzard County sound increas­ingly familiar even to those of us who haven’t seen it. By the way, we’d like to take this opportunity to remind you that Caltech is a place we don’t want to be eating in a place we don’t want to. The Dukes of Hazzard, for example, are as effective as a blind, spayed dog with its teeth knocked out and a giant tumor coming out of its nose. They have sold out for an illusion of politically correct­ness and quality of the Caltech experience for nearly a century. The Institute for Defense Analyses is a place we don’t want to be either. The Dukes sold out for an illusion of politically correct­ness and quality of the Caltech experience for nearly a century.

Establish your career on a foundation as solid as your training.

Currently, IDA is seeking highly qualified individuals with degrees at the doctoral or master’s level in the following:

- Aeronautics & Astronautics
- Biology
- Cybersecurity
- Chemistry
- Chemical Engineering
- Economics
- Electrical Engineering & Computer Science
- Material Science
- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering
- Physics
- Environmental Science
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Sociology
- Environmental Health

Along with competitive salaries, IDA provides excellent benefits including comprehensive health insurance, paid holidays, 3 weeks vacation and more — all in a professional development environment that encourages individual thinking and produces con­crete results. Applicants selected will be subject to a security investigation and must meet eligibility require­ments for access to classified information. US citizenship is required.

IDA will be on campus interviewing qualified candidates on January 25th. For consideration, submit your resume by January 23rd through the Career Services Center/ MonsterTRAK. You can also visit us at the upcoming Career Day on January 26th.

Visit our website for more information on our specialized opportunities.

Bitches is Hoes #4:
Boss Hogg is Bitches

By Jon Senn, Dan Mclaury, Josh Gutman, and others hanging out in the room

FOR SALE — Low mileage, one-owner, 1995 red Mazda Miata with hardtop, Automat­ic, AM/FM Cassette, AC, tinnies, cover & convertible top (never used). Excellent condition, Driven only to and from Caltech by splendid professor. $5,200. Contact Jenjoyy La Rove, x3665 or jlb@eci.caltech.edu.
Those Fools, Why Do They Want to Come here?

Continued from Page 1

I know students like that. It’s not this obscure, strange place.

Of course, Prefresh Weekend helps many students decide whether Caltech is right for them, and the Admissions Office has worked to make sure that this information comes to the accepted students at the same time as their acceptance letters. Prefresh Weekend this year will be shortened to Thursday through Friday, as a result of the budgetary cuts. Noting the difficult situation this places both the Admissions Office and current students, Mr. Bischoff explained, “I’m happy, nobody’s happy about having less time.” Main concern is that the Prefresh have enough opportunities to experience the variety of houses.

Mr. Bischoff was very happy to announce that future prefresh weekend would be their normal lengths, from Thursday to Sunday, a task that will be easier in part because of the 7-day board plan next year.

Student Representatives from the houses will be meeting with the admissions office in the upcoming weeks to plan for prefresh weekend. “I’m impressed by how much the students do,” noting that all activities after 6 PM are student-led.

Also, there are two students who have already returned their acceptances and paid their deposits, ready for Caltech.

Caltech Morris Michael’s Passing

Continued from Page 1

best limit on their density in our universe.

In 1991 other physicists reported anomalies in the ratio of electron to muon neutrinos originating from high-energy cosmic rays. The leading contender amongst various theories for the underlying cause of the anomaly was that neutrinos oscillate from one type to another as they propagate through space. Doug immediately began thinking seriously about an experiment designed to observationally study such neutrino oscillations. By 1994, further experiments, including MACRO, provided strong evidence for the oscillation hypothesis and Doug's design studies became the base for his proposal to Fermilab for a major experiment, now called MINOS (Main Injector Neutrino Oscillation Search).

MINOS was a collaborative effort consisting of about 150 physicists from institutions in many countries around the world. Since its inception, Michael played a key role in the design, construction, management, and scientific leadership of MINOS. At the time of his death, he was one of the two spokesmen for the experiment.

Doug had a broad and deep interest in the natural world and was always ready to explain to anyone, anywhere, what he was doing and why it was important. He was featured in an Aladdin's Scientific American Frontiers television program in January, 1995, leading Alda on an underground tour of the MACRO experiment; it is rumored that Alda still occasionally comments on Doug's deep and maniacal scientist he met under a mountain in Italy. Doug was deeply knowledgeable and strongly passionate about each of his many interests. His well-developed sense of humor made him a pleasure to be around.

On Saturday the Pomona Sagehens rode into town for a doubleheader. Last season with 56 percent. Lady Beavers looked to earn their win of the season. In the lead to fort to push the pace early, Coach Marbut started Kyoko Amano. Tech started with a quick 4-3 lead on lead the hoop, but soon thereafter Po- morels with the advantage and would not relinquish it.

The Beavers wasted several fast breaks, opportunities and were domi- nated on the glass despite solid ef- forts by Shelby Montague and Rose Davis. Davis was a monster on the boards in the first half, collecting 9 rebounds. She would finish with 13, Montague took over in the sec- ond half, picking up 7 to finish with 10 for the game. Compounding the Beavers frustrating day in the paint was the Beavers defense, which accoun- ted for 5 blocked shots. Lindsay King was able to complete a 3-point play with 44 seconds remaining, but Pomona would win it, 69-29.

Top Scorers:

Davis: 5 pts, 13 rebs, 3 assists, Montague: 13 pts, 9 rebs, King: 9 pts, Kimes: 7 pts.

In the evening session, the men took on the or time defend- ing SCIAC champs. Both teams traded the lead inside the half, but the Beavers went through Bryan Hires whose 3-point play 7 minutes into the half gave Tech a 9-6 lead. Hus- tancy to shoot cost the Beavers sev- eral opportunities, but the Beavers slowly built a 10-point cushion with 2:38 left. However, the Bears managed only 7 of 14 from the line in the second-half.

Carlson and Scott Davies, Caltech crept back. Davies connected from long range 2 minutes into the half to bring the Beavers within 2. As the intensity escalated, Cal Lu com- mitted several early fouls, putting the Beavers in the bonus only 5 minutes into the half. Caltech then took the lead 31-30 on an Underhill free throw. However, the Beavers managed only 7 of 14 from the line in the second-half.

Carlson sat out the first half of Caltech's solid first half defense limited Cal Lu to 33% from the floor. However, poor shooting and late-first-half turnovers cost the Bears as they trailed 26-21 at the intermission.

Beavers Open Strongly Against Cal Lu

By GUSTAVO OLM

The Beavers hosted Cal Lu in their SCIAC opener last Wednesday, falling 66-66. The lead would exchange several times in the early going. With 8:38 left in the half, Michael Underhill drove baseline, rebounded his own miss and sank the put-back, taking the lead 31-30 on an Underhill free throw. However, poor shooting and late-first-half turnovers cost the Bears as they trailed 26-21 at the intermission.

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