Wide Wild World of Administration: Cathy Jurca Speaks Out on Seven-Day Board, Student-Faculty Communication

By VIBHA LALJANI

Tech: What is the MOSH?
Cathy Jurca: There was a conversation that took place in 2002 about four months before I was appointed MOSH, to see if the position should be redefine. At that time the MOSH hosted events for undergraduates and faculty and also provided social and cultural opportunities for undergraduates, such as trips to the opera, which my predecessor, Steve Fontes, had initiated. Students wanted to preserve that function. It was also agreed that the MOSH should be an advocate for student well-being. The MOSH may not necessarily advocate exactly what students want, because I sometimes have a different perspective, but it is my job to look for their wellbeing. To this end, the MOSH serves as a liaison between students and administration/faculty. I serve on several committees, which deal with issues important to students; for example, I am now serving on the Task Force that is dealing with the 7-day board.

Tech: The MOSH organizes outings and events, such as the Manners 101 dinners, and I sometimes interact with the Y, too. My events are different in that they are primarily concerned with promoting student-faculty interaction outside the classroom. The centerpiece of these events is the “option” teas that I host each year so that freshmen and some upper-class students can have a chance to meet and talk with faculty in their option.

Tech: What do you think is/are the main cause(s) for the changing relationship between students and the administration?
CJ: As long as I’ve been here there have been issues that have sometimes drawn attention and complaint from students. This is obviously one of those times. I think the budget cuts have a lot to do with the recent problems with communication: a lot of difficult decisions had to be made very quickly. But there were discussions between the administration and student leaders regarding them. The budget crisis is pretty overwhelming. The seven-day meal plan was not a good way to resolve the problem, and I’m very glad it is being rethought based on the results of the town hall meeting.

Tech: Do you think the change in this relationship is due to students or administration?
CJ: I think it is both ways. One of the things budget cuts have led to is a reduction in staff. Now, everyone has to work a lot harder because the work is still there and it has to be done. There is an additional burden. Also, students are very busy here. They were often unable to show up to Student Affairs open houses, which were designed precisely as a means for them to have more communication between administration and students and beacon.

Tech: The seven-day meal plan may strain the already stressed Techers because they may worry about moving off-campus just to be off-board.
CJ: We do not want to drive students off-campus. The houses are very important to students and are an integral part of undergraduate culture at Caltech. The taskforce is listening to students and is trying to come up with a proposal that they will find reasonable.

Tech: Do you think the change in relationship between administrators and students has brought about a change in campus culture, in the last couple years?
CJ: We had a bad period three or four years ago, followed by a good period, and once again, things are not at their best. These things tend to cycle. Techers have an extraordinary sense of involvement in issues of importance to them and their encroachments on their independence and are very vocal. This is as bad as I’ve seen it, but the administration and students learn from situations like these. I hope this has a positive impact.

Techers have an extraordinary sense of involvement in issues of importance to them and their encroachments on their independence and are very vocal. This is as bad as I’ve seen it, but the administration and students learn from situations like these. I hope this has a positive impact. Also, new leadership coming so soon after the town hall meeting may be very useful, something of a fresh start.

Film Critic to Give Caltech a Review of Reviewing in a Sold out Revue

By CALTECH PR

Kenneth Turan, a film critic for the Los Angeles Times and National Public Radio, will be on campus February 15-16 as the featured speaker for Caltech’s Words Matter program. The 2006 program begins with a noon lecture at the Avery Library, “Never Coming to a Theater Near You,” in which Turan will discuss art-house, independent, and foreign-language productions that are rarely shown at the local shopping mall, but are nevertheless worthy of our attention. Turan will also discuss issues, such as mass marketing, popular taste, and the economics of the film industry. The event is open to the campus community, and lunch will be provided for the first 80 attendees.

Turan’s second lecture on Wednesday, “A Lesson in Film Reviewing,” is open only to Caltech students. An RSVP is required for this two-hour event, which begins at 5 p.m. Participants will view a brief film and then discuss with Turan various strategies for reviewing it. For more information, send an e-mail to words@caltech.edu.

At noon on Thursday, Turan will discuss the process of producing a film review, from brainstorming and drafting, to revising and editing. Participants will read several reviews in advance and will trace the evolution of one particular review of the recent film Syriana. This lecture is open only to Caltech students and an RSVP sent to words@caltech.edu is required to receive the readings and to reserve a place.

Caltech’s campus lectures will conclude at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday in the Baxter 125 with a discussion of the film 32 Short Films About Glenn Gould. The discussion will include Caltech history professor Robert Rosenstone, who specializes in the cinema. This event is open to the campus community. (Note: The film will be screened at 7 p.m. Thursday, February 14, in Baxter 125.

Lisa Randall, professor of physics at Harvard University, will speak at a Skeptics Society Lecture at 2 p.m. on February 12, in Baxter Lecture Hall. Her talk is entitled “Warped Passages: Unveiling the Mysteries of the Universe’s Hidden Dimensions.” Dr. Randall, a theoretical physicist, works on string theory, particle physics, and cosmology. Donation is $8 for nonmembers, $5 for members and non-Caltech students. Free to the Caltech/JPL community. A book signing will follow the lecture.

The California Tech

Volume CVII, Number 16
Pasadena, California
February 13, 2006
The ASCIT elections were the biggest event last week for the undergraduates at Caltech. By the time the nomination sign-ups came down a lot of candidates had signed up, especially for the CRC Student Chair race. As Elections Chair, I do allow myself some flexibility when appropriate, as in deciding what to do with ballots that are not counted, according to Article VIII, Section 5. When it is possible to discern the intention of the voter, the ballots are counted and included in the tabulation. For example, if a ballot has a ranking of candidates higher than actual candidates, we assume that those abstentions were valid and moved the following candidates up one to replace them. In so doing, the Elections Committee tries to use as many ballots as possible to reflect the students’ intentions. Even though the instructions on the ballots say that incorrect ballots will be thrown out, I prefer not to do so. It is cheaper, quicker and doesn’t prejudice any part of the voting population. The decision to count a specific set of incorrect ballots carries with it a specific way is always made before running the election. That said, there is a difference in the two methods: we would not be able to pick the candidate after the fact. In most races, the outcomes were invariant with respect to the options with which the script would be able to pick the candidate after the fact.

This race was no exception. Also, given the closeness of the results, we ran all the write-in ballots to make sure no one wrote in one of the candidates instead of using the pull-down menu. In these respects, we do not know what higher standard of diligence could be expected from the Elections Committee.

This election was, to the best knowledge of Candidates, balloting was allowed, tabulated according to the letter and intention of the voters. When there were publications before the elections, the committee, the race was run in the following manner. While yes, that’s the round that matters, CRC was leading the previous rounds by about 20 votes. If letting a candidate win a race by one vote bothers you, we hope that you will join the new Board of Directors, reach out to bood@donut. caltech.edu, or notify the bylaws. It has been suggested that the bylaws might require that a candidate win by a margin that is greater than half the error, for example 1-2% of the non-voting votes in the Board Chair race plus half the error. This way, in an election with 500 voters, the winner would have to have at least 5-10 more than his opponent, regardless of the error. There are a number of still more questions that need to be addressed in changing this mechanism: Does the election apply to each round of eliminations, or only the final one? What if a runoff vote between identical candidates finds itself with both candidates tied again because the margin is bigger than the previous rounds by about 20 votes? Should the margin be ignored in that case in the interest of having an elected office? Should this be at the discretion of the Elections Chair? Or should it be at the discretion of the Bylaws Committee?

We encourage the Board of Directors to weigh these questions and their votes, together with concerned students to make any necessary changes with a bylaw amendment. If you have any questions, contact the Elections Committee at elections@donut. caltech.edu or meet in The BoD on the Olive Walk every Weds and welcomes anyone interested in discussing the issues. Toad can be reached at pres@donut and Jean at vpr@donut.
Come On Feel the Illinoise!  
Sufjan Stevens (2005)

By CINDY KO

This Sufjan guy doesn’t know how to disappoint. Illinoise is a very good album with extensive musical and lyrical merit. Each track is chock full of imagery of the coming and going of the Prairie State. The songs are rather on the long side, some as long as 6 or 7 minutes. Two of them are divided into two parts. In the title track, Part II tells us of the 1893 World’s Fair, which was made in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Columbus New World Discovery, while Part II is Stevens’ retelling of a dream where poet Carl Sandburg visits him.

Sufjan chooses to use non-traditional instruments to complement his music, including Wurlitzer, banjo, accordion, glockenspiel, vibraphone, sleigh bells, etc. to accompany his piano, acoustic guitar, drum and electric organs. So many instruments! (And I can’t believe that spell check didn’t make that crazy red line underneath some of them.) Not only that, but each song has a few accents added like a hand-clap here or there and lots of female backup singers. The sound itself is very rich, permeated with a sort of quasi-religious/gospel mood, reminiscent of the Polyphonic Spree in some ways. In comparison to Michigan, you can tell it’s a more expensive album—it just has the polish of a nicely made studio recording that the other album doesn’t quite make, but my favorites are the ones that tell sad stories all about dying young (‘10 Casimir Pulaski’s Day”). The music is crafted so that every track has layers of meaning, utilizing the melody and the words as separate media to show emotion. While listening to the lyrics, “Chicago” sounds an upbeat song, but after a second or third spin, it’s really about going with a friend on a trip that started out fun and ended up causing distance between them. With all this going for him, it’s unfortunate that Stevens has been overlooked by the Grammy Nominations this year. Too bad! I like his music about 70 billion times more than some of the nominated artists, and I think he deserves it for his work. Oh well, Grammys are overrated, they always go to the cheerleaders and jocks of the music industry anyway.

Grade: A+

PS: I almost forgot! I have been discussing ideas about how to choose the music that gets reviewed every week. Some people say that if I get paid by the Tech, then maybe I should choose music that fits everyone’s tastes. I tend to think that I’m catering to the readers for a pleasant and fun article, whether or not I review the “right” album. I choose the albums based on my own musical taste, which I think is pretty close to the average college radio station’s playlist, but I am open to suggestions as well. If you want to hear what I think of an album—that is, make me buy it and listen to it before you shell out the cash—drop me an email cinko@caltech.edu. Otherwise, STEER CLEAR—IT’S THE BOSS DECIDE WHAT GOES ON AROUND HERE!

Next week: With Love and Squid — We Are Scientists

Dating 101 (Part 1)
Building confidence and a positive state of mind

By HELENA KOPECKY

The time between when people first begin thinking of approaching someone they are attracted to and when they actually make that step is often seeded with questions, self-doubt, fears about being rejected, and other concerns. In other words, worrying about insecurities and anxieties, this time can be used to build skills and self-confidence. In this article, I will discuss skills related to building confidence and a positive state of mind, including being mindful of mood states, anxiety reduction, and nonverbal communication. A subsequent article will address skills related to engaging in a conversation, namely introductions, using ice-breakers, keeping the conversation going, and concluding by suggesting a datum.

When people are in a good mood, their outlook on life and themselves is colored by positive emotions and thoughts. Good moods help us smile more readily, talk more spontaneously, and feel more self-confident. It is these very characteristics that make it easier for us to approach someone we like. Because mood has a range of shades and we prefer to maintain our own moods, becoming mindful of our moods requires no more than taking a few seconds to check in with ourselves and be present to our thoughts and emotions. Ideally, it will be when we are in a good mood, rather than in a neutral or bad mood, that we will take the step toward approaching the person we like. If we were to rank situations that produce a high degree of anxiety, approaching a person in whom one is romantically interested would rank fairly high. Although anxiety can be useful when experienced in moderate degrees, excessive anxiety undermines our interpersonal skills in a number of ways. First, very high levels of anxiety hinder our ability to focus on the other person and what he or she is saying. We may then unwittingly give the impression that we are not interested in the other person. Second, our own thought processes tend to be less clear and less organized under significant anxiety, giving us less control over what we want to say and how we say it.

The practice of relaxation exercises has much to offer for reducing anxiety. When one uses breathing exercises, progressive muscle relaxation, meditation exercises, or meditation, the effect on the body and the mind tends to be similarly calming. Finding a relaxation exercise that is a good fit and engaging in the exercise before approaching a potential romantic interest is likely to improve the interaction, because it will make you appear more cool, calm, centered, and spontaneous. In face-to-face conversation, what we express in the language of our body is as important as the words we use. Through body language we communicate our mood, feelings, and attitudes and our level of interest in them as people and in what they have to say to us. Our body language includes posture, eye-contact, and smile, is another way to connect with the other person, both as we are speaking and as we are quietly listening. Positive or open body language involves having a relaxed yet upright posture with arms unfolded rather than folded and leaning forward slightly as the other person is talking. Similarly, engaging eye contact conveys that we are present and interested in our conversational partner. People who feel comfortable with each other are knowledgeable in the ways of looking at the other facial features, especially the lips, and the periods of looking away, is quite appropriate and likely to feel natural. Finally, smiling as we look at other people is one of the most effective ways to convey liking of people and to project a warm and pleasant attitude.

Relax your Mind and Body

Progressive Muscle Relaxation
1. Remove shoes, glasses and other restraining items
2. Close your eyes & focus attention on the muscles of your right hand
3. Make a fist for 5-7 seconds & feel the muscle tension
4. Relax—notice the difference between tension and relaxation
5. Continue flexing & relaxing all the muscle groups in your body (including the face)
6. Scan your body for tense areas & repeat as necessary
7. Count down four...three...two...one...Open your eyes

Deep Breathing Technique
1. Find a place without distractions
2. Choose a comfortable position
3. Close your eyes
4. Become aware of your breathing
5. Feel your lungs fill with air
6. Don’t force it—allow it to happen
7. Take deep breaths with your abdomen
8. Hold the breath
9. Return to a natural breathing pattern—enjoy the feeling of relaxation

*Repeat the process for 10-20 minutes each day
Bitches is Hoes, Issue #9: Libel is Bitches

By JON SENN


WASHINGTON - A rau­
cous slumber party turned in­
cestuous early Tuesday when
a Bush family member -
dressed in Superman capes,
tutus and other outlandish
outfits - were rescued after
getting caught in the Oval Of­
fice. A representative for the
father-son duo - internation­
ally known for their genius­
level IQs said the father
not realize it was his son who
had been covered by
slide. Gabe Gregriel, who leads the
ally known for their genius­
factored into the conserva­
Committee.

House, one of the dorms of
Night," when the Bush
are reinitiated into the WhIte
Congressmen ran. About a
quarter-before the hour, Bush
secret service was called at
for the two when Bush Jr. suf­
ered a minor sprained ego,
the total cost of the opera­
the characters and situa­
the Tech, and in particular
those in Bitches is Hoes. fo­
cus almost exclusively on the
negative aspects of Caltech.
Since this is a rant column,
much of our issues will con­
tinue to have a negative focus.

authors' note: we intended
to run issues #7, #8, and #9
during the previous two edi­
tions of the Tech, but due to
space limitations, only is­
ue #6 was printed. We also
intended to publish the fol­
lowing errata two issues ago.
issue #7 was primarily a call
for more nominations for last
weeks' elections, and as such
will not be printed. Like all of
our articles, issue #7 is avail­
able on the Bitches is Hoes
website: www.its.caltech.edu/
~senn/BIH.

Some of our readers have
criticized the fact that articles
in the Tech, and in particular
those in Bitches is Hoes, fo­
cus almost exclusively on the
negative aspects of Caltech.
Secret Service, Marine 1 - I
think Congress should defi­
etly be held accountable for
that; bring out the Whip.

Disclaimer:
The characters and situa­
tions depicted in the above
story are completely fiction­
al. Any resemblance to actual
people, living or deceased, is
a little sad.

Go to the Bitches is Hoes
website: www.its.caltech.
edu/~senn/BIH

Addendum

We have, however, criticized
various administrative actions
enough that you should under­
stand our general grievances
at present, so we plan to write
at least one upcoming issue of
this column in a more posi­
tive vein. We will focus on
condemning various admin­
istrators and faculty for mak­
ing Caltech a better place, for
preserving our unique commu­
nity, and most of all for not be­
ing Bitches. Please email us at
senn@caltech.edu reasons that
you feel we should acclaim
any administrators, professors,
or other members of the com­
munity. Of course, feel free
to email any other comments,
suggestions, or hate mail as
well.
[Errata from Issue #5] In the
previous edition of The Tech, we
drew attention to the ex­
istence of an ASCIT Board of
Directors (BoD) vote with
Lloyd-versus-non-Lloyd re­
results. While our statements
in this regard were factually cor­
rect, we insinuated the exis­
tence of similar voting results.
We now know that not only
were there no similar votes, but
even in the example we allud­
ed to, the BoD denied funding
only due to a miscommunica­
tion the night before the event.
The BoD later overturned its
decision and provided funding.
We apologize for our severely
deficient investigation.
Furthermore, it was drawn
to our attention that not 4, but
6 of the 9 elected BoD mem­
ers of 2005 were technically
full members of Lloyd.
Bitches is Hoes
Issue #10: Why We Rant – A Treatise on Bitches

By JON SENN

Discover the mechanism of gravity

- The proton and electron are formed simultaneously and (at long range) their electrostatic fields balance each other except for the tiny separation of their fields caused by the ether particle size (the Planck length 10⁻³⁵ m).
- The separation of the electrostatic fields of the proton - electron pairs in effect causes the two fields to oscillate about each other at a half amplitude equal the other particle radius.
- The oscillation of the opposite fields relative to each other produces the long range (inverse square force) field similar to the electrostatic field. This is the gravitational field.
- The illusion of an expanding universe is caused by photons emitted from stars losing one ether particle for each wavelength of travel executed by the photon.

For more information and to access the book, visit

www.physicsunifiedtheory.com

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

Visit the Bitches is Hoes website:
www.its.caltech.edu/~senn/BIH

Over the past couple months, a lot of non-students have read my columns and articles about the Town Hall meeting and asked me, "about what are the students so upset?" Everyone many members of the faculty I have met with lately are not fully aware of our general complaints.

I typically begin my explanations by naming a few key problems, but they fail to get to the heart of the problem. I invariably conclude by attempting to explain the general source of tension regarding all these issues: essentially, undergraduates are increasingly disconnected from the administrative decision-making process. Among our goals in writing this column are combating and exposing specific instances of this general complaint. We hope that when high-level administrators knowingly let down the student body, they will pick up the paper in fear of retaliatory editorials, and we hope that in the future they will think hard about how they can involve students in the decision-making process. In this issue, I will do my best to explain the root of this long-standing grievance and hopefully touch upon the beginning of possible strategies towards rectifying our situation.

As stated on the Caltech Admissions website: "Every school, Caltech included, wants to make the case that there's no other place quite like it on earth... What really matters, however, is not that a school is unique, but Why?" Before I visited Caltech, I intended to matriculate at MIT. MIT had a superior reputation among laypeople, a better ratio, was in a true college town, and as a medium sized school offered a more traditional college experience. But after my first visit to Caltech, my mind was made up. Caltech is a phenomenal institution, a true community, governed by a simple and elegant Honor Code. Undergraduates at Caltech have been afforded freedoms that sound ludicrous to students at other schools: we have keys to buildings around campus; our exams are virtually all take-home, and we're treated as full individuals by administrators, rather than bureaucratically brushed through a four-year revolving door.

But since I've arrived here, I've felt some small degree of disappointment as the Caltech I was so excited to join was nowhere to be found but surely existed. At first, my impressions of isolated incidents were optimistic. The Ricketts Fireplot was removed in spite of student protests, but administration said it was a last resort, and our administrators are honorable people. However, when high-level administrators knowingly let down the student body, they will pick up the paper in fear of retaliatory editorials, and we hope that in the future they will think hard about how they can involve students in the decision-making process. In this issue, I will do my best to explain the root of this long-standing grievance and hopefully touch upon the beginning of possible strategies towards rectifying our situation.

The last resort, and our administrators are honorable people. Next year, students will be charged more yet receive fewer student services, but administration says this is a last resort, and our administrators are honorable people.

The results of the above issues, while significant problems, are not cause for panic. They pose little long-term threat to the essence of Caltech, no matter how restrictive they may be. What truly bothers us is that administration told us that these were last resorts, but failed to provide satisfactory reasons why. Often times, we can conceive of better solutions at any moment’s thought. We need to understand why administrators chose what we believe to be inferior alternatives, and we need to have continual input into major decisions.

When housing decided that various student murals must be removed in order to avoid a lawsuit, they failed entirely to even mention that they were sending painters one morning, let alone consult the affected students. Reacting to major student outrage, housing later established a new policy at least giving honor students the right to repatriate over offensive material. Such a reaction from the students should have been easily forecasted by housing. Student consulta­tion prior to the incident clearly would have diminished student resistance and probably yielded a more efficient solution. At an institution like Caltech, if I find such administrative disre­gard for the concerns of students far more offensive than a mural could ever be.

If I had to choose a single issue which epitomizes the Caltech administration’s disregard for undergraduates, it would be our recent parking fiasco. In order to pay for the new parking structure under the North Field, the new VP of Business and Finance, Dean Currie, instituted a large increase in fees for campus parking. Again, this change in itself is not the reason for students’ concern. It was the implementation without student input. The policy was adopted over the summer, while students weren’t here to voice their concerns. While the prices were close to fair, existing students had planned their finances around the previously lower fees. A better implementation would probably allow students some existing permits to not pay additional fees for some duration. Even worse than the surprise price increases, the existing parking was divided into zones. The areas closest to the stu­dent body, and I hope that over time, the student body, and I hope that over time, all of Caltech should strive to operate with such integrity, not only with respect to science. An ideal administration would not simply tell the students that the pending budget cuts are a last resort, they would bend over backwards to show students why other potential solutions, they would discuss these ideas with students, and in the process we could together reach an improved distribution of cuts.

With the Town Hall meeting and conference 7-day board, the administration began to rebuild the bridge towards the undergraduate community. I hope that over time, the administration began to rebuild the bridge towards the undergraduate community. I hope that over time, all of Caltech should strive to operate with such integrity, not only with respect to science. An ideal administration would not simply tell the students that the pending budget cuts are a last resort, they would bend over backwards to show students why other potential solutions, they would discuss these ideas with students, and in the process we could together reach an improved distribution of cuts.

With the Town Hall meeting and conference 7-day board, the administration began to rebuild the bridge towards the undergraduate community. I hope that over time, all of Caltech should strive to operate with such integrity, not only with respect to science. An ideal administration would not simply tell the students that the pending budget cuts are a last resort, they would bend over backwards to show students why other potential solutions, they would discuss these ideas with students, and in the process we could together reach an improved distribution of cuts.

With the Town Hall meeting and conference 7-day board, the administration began to rebuild the bridge towards the undergraduate community. I hope that over time, all of Caltech should strive to operate with such integrity, not only with respect to science. An ideal administration would not simply tell the students that the pending budget cuts are a last resort, they would bend over backwards to show students why other potential solutions, they would discuss these ideas with students, and in the process we could together reach an improved distribution of cuts.

With the Town Hall meeting and conference 7-day board, the administration began to rebuild the bridge towards the undergraduate community. I hope that over time, all of Caltech should strive to operate with such integrity, not only with respect to science. An ideal administration would not simply tell the students that the pending budget cuts are a last resort, they would bend over backwards to show students why other potential solutions, they would discuss these ideas with students, and in the process we could together reach an improved distribution of cuts.

With the Town Hall meeting and conference 7-day board, the administration began to rebuild the bridge towards the undergraduate community. I hope that over time, all of Caltech should strive to operate with such integrity, not only with respect to science. An ideal administration would not simply tell the students that the pending budget cuts are a last resort, they would bend over backwards to show students why other potential solutions, they would discuss these ideas with students, and in the process we could together reach an improved distribution of cuts.

With the Town Hall meeting and conference 7-day board, the administration began to rebuild the bridge towards the undergraduate community. I hope that over time, all of Caltech should strive to operate with such integrity, not only with respect to science. An ideal administration would not simply tell the students that the pending budget cuts are a last resort, they would bend over backwards to show students why other potential solutions, they would discuss these ideas with students, and in the process we could together reach an improved distribution of cuts.

With the Town Hall meeting and conference 7-day board, the administration began to rebuild the bridge towards the undergraduate community. I hope that over time, all of Caltech should strive to operate with such integrity, not only with respect to science. An ideal administration would not simply tell the students that the pending budget cuts are a last resort, they would bend over backwards to show students why other potential solutions, they would discuss these ideas with students, and in the process we could together reach an improved distribution of cuts.

With the Town Hall meeting and conference 7-day board, the administration began to rebuild the bridge towards the undergraduate community. I hope that over time, all of Caltech should strive to operate with such integrity, not only with respect to science. An ideal administration would not simply tell the students that the pending budget cuts are a last resort, they would bend over backwards to show students why other potential solutions, they would discuss these ideas with students, and in the process we could together reach an improved distribution of cuts.

With the Town Hall meeting and conference 7-day board, the administration began to rebuild the bridge towards the undergraduate community. I hope that over time, all of Caltech should strive to operate with such integrity, not only with respect to science. An ideal administration would not simply tell the students that the pending budget cuts are a last resort, they would bend over backwards to show students why other potential solutions, they would discuss these ideas with students, and in the process we could together reach an improved distribution of cuts.

With the Town Hall meeting and conference 7-day board, the administration began to rebuild the bridge towards the undergraduate community. I hope that over time, all of Caltech should strive to operate with such integrity, not only with respect to science. An ideal administration would not simply tell the students that the pending budget cuts are a last resort, they would bend over backwards to show students why other potential solutions, they would discuss these ideas with students, and in the process we could together reach an improved distribution of cuts.
I’m not too fond of a lot of news outlets. I take an hour of The Daily Show and the Colbert Report over CNN or Fox news any day. At the very least, Com- edy Central acknowledges that its shows is half the battle. Even worse, it’s more depressing: our repeated and shameless whoring ourselves out to TV in order to sell Numb3rs. Numb3rs is the tough and gritty story of a young, mathematically genius (Matt Damon) and his best friend from childhood (Ben Affleck) coming of age, and finding their way through the mean streets of San Ma- rino, guided in their quest by a wise old professor (William Shatner) and a woman who now spends her days standing on street corners waving big plastic arrows that point at dreams of development or antique spittoon auctions. But despite its all-star cast, the show’s plot suffers from the absence of Numb3rs. Numb3rs is in it for the money that it no longer can make. In an extrovert world, where the num- bers are made out to be both victims of hazing and mass-scaling

I’m Okay; You’re a Techer

By LEE COLEMAN

Work, play, sleep—pick two. Caltech’s unfulfilling motto, right? Even though you can’t always have all three, there are ways for balancing your time more effec- tively to maintain your mental and emotional state of care.

To that end, the Caltech Coun- seling Center is pleased to an- nounce this year’s psychology lecture series, entitled “Work, Play, Sleep: Finding Balance.” This year’s lecture series will feature fifteen dynamic speakers, both local and national, offer- ing free workshops on various topics of interest to the students body. All workshops will be in Wheeler 154, unless otherwise noted.

Great news is that I’ll be speaking from noon to 1:00 on Monday, April 24th from noon to 1:30. April 13th, from noon to 1:00 will speak on “When Does Addic- tion Become Obsession?” Caltech Counseling Center will present, “Understanding and Overcoming Social Anxiety” on Friday, April 29th from noon to 1:00.

But I’m not writing simply to hawk my wares. I’m writing simply to introduce you to the rest of the lineup.

In addition to the presentations, there will be ample time to put on warm clothes, and to share meals. So, we’ll be saving our money to pay me that imag- ing to pay me that imagination. But, if you look behind the main actor for the story, you will remember the scene with the men running behind the glass. We can move dinner to the Ol- ive Walk. Why Don’t We Do It in the Road? But how do I know Caltech is in the midst of a budget crisis? This unfortunate cir- cumstance has led me to one more depressing: our repeated and shameless whoring out to TV in order to sell Numb3rs. Numb3rs is the tough and gritty story of a young, mathematically genius (Matt Damon) and his best friend from childhood (Ben Affleck) coming of age, and finding their way through the mean streets of San Ma- rino, guided in their quest by a wise old professor (William Shatner) and a woman who now spends her days standing on street corners waving big plastic arrows that point at dreams of development or antique spittoon auctions. But despite its all-star cast, the show’s plot suffers from the absence of Numb3rs. Numb3rs is in it for the money that it no longer can make. In an extrovert world, where the num-

I’m Okay; You’re a Techer

By MASON SMITH

I’m not too fond of a lot of news outlets. I take an hour of The Daily Show and the Colbert Report over CNN or Fox news any day. At the very least, Com- edy Central acknowledges that its shows is half the battle. Even worse, it’s more depressing: our repeated and shameless whoring ourselves out to TV in order to sell Numb3rs. Numb3rs is the tough and gritty story of a young, mathematically genius (Matt Damon) and his best friend from childhood (Ben Affleck) coming of age, and finding their way through the mean streets of San Ma- rino, guided in their quest by a wise old professor (William Shatner) and a woman who now spends her days standing on street corners waving big plastic arrows that point at dreams of development or antique spittoon auctions. But despite its all-star cast, the show’s plot suffers from the absence of Numb3rs. Numb3rs is in it for the money that it no longer can make. In an extrovert world, where the num-
On Friday night, we heard many stories, love stories, erotic stories, and downright horrifying stories about vaginas. We heard about women who spent decades hating their vaginas who grew to love them. Then we heard stories of women opening their souls and panting to the idea of sexual expression. We heard that this was a good thing.

We were also expected to accept that female prostitution and fornication with minors was a good thing.

One of the monologues was told from the point of view of a female prostitute about how happy she was about sexually pleasing other women, especially her father's friend raped her—and when a boy punched her between the ages of 10 and 12, she became comfortable with herself and her sexuality. The message? A girl, horrified by her sexual past, becomes completely ignored the notion. Sex was either illegal or immoral. She had nothing but horrible associations with her vagina. The redeeming part of the story is, years later, when she discovers a beautiful 24-year-old woman down the street, and is attracted to her. She stays over at the woman's house, and has a night of sexual pleasure and discovery. The message? A girl, horrified by her sexual past, becomes comfortable with herself and her sexuality.

What the story glazes over is that the girl is 16 at the time. In most states, that's statutory rape (see www.ageofconsent.com). Also, try replacing a beautiful 24-year-old woman with a dashing 24-year-old man. People would be outraged that a man took advantage of a 16-year-old girl. If the point is to tell an inspiring story about a girl who can finally become comfortable with her vagina, it is necessary to throw in legal issues and gender double-standards? For a production that's already so controversial, it doesn't seem wise to turn off more of your audience than you have to.

Don't get me wrong—I enjoyed the monologues, and would see them again next year. However, I think Eve Ensler could have made her point with less controversy.


caltech runners go fast, or slow, as the case may be

by mark eichenlaub

Caltech hosted its third annual All-Comers track meet this Saturday. It was the first time in the year for the Beavers, and the athletes learned all sorts of interesting lessons.

For example, they learned that female prostitution and fornication with minors was a good thing. Peter Sadowski completed a 300m hurdles race in 42.94 seconds, which earned him fourth place and a big smiley-face sticker. In the 100m, some guy named Seth Hendrickson, who I don't really know but apparently he goes here, ran 11.94s, which is pretty good considering he didn't have a speed suit to grab his crotch for him. Dina Karnaevsky ran a personal-best 12.10 and looked pretty happy to me.

Angela Magge and Tencia Lee ran 13 or 14 seconds or so for the women. Also their names rhyme.

Another monologue was about a girl who, growing up, had unfortunate experiences with her vagina. From her early childhood when a boy punched her between her legs to landing crotch-first into her bedpost, her vagina was always a source of pain. When her father's friend raped her—and then her father shot the friend—he had nothing but horrible associations with her vagina. The redeeming part of the story is, years later, when she discovers a beautiful 24-year-old woman down the street, and is attracted to her. She stays over at the woman's house, and has a night of sexual pleasure and discovery. The message? A girl, horrified by her sexual past, becomes comfortable with herself and her sexuality.

Then treat your date to a special noon-out at the Broad Cafe with the staff of this fine publication. (Friday, noon)

Free food, and money for your articles printed by us, that is, if we print them, you get money, but I digress:

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

This Valentine's Day Give the gift that keeps on giving:

Write about your loved one for the Tech!

By Marissa Cevallos

Vagina Monologues Straddle Morality Line to Deliver Message

Caltech Runners Go Fast, or Slow, as the Case May Be

By Mark Eichenlaub

On Friday night, we heard many stories, love stories, erotic stories, and downright horrifying stories about vaginas. We heard about women who spent decades hating their vaginas who grew to love them. Then we heard stories of women opening their souls and panting to the idea of sexual expression. We heard that this was a good thing.

We were also expected to accept that female prostitution and fornication with minors was a good thing.

One of the monologues was told from the point of view of a female prostitute about how happy she was about sexually pleasing other women, especially her father's friend raped her—and when a boy punched her between the ages of 10 and 12, she became comfortable with herself and her sexuality. The message? A girl, horrified by her sexual past, becomes completely ignored the notion. Sex was either illegal or immoral. She had nothing but horrible associations with her vagina. The redeeming part of the story is, years later, when she discovers a beautiful 24-year-old woman down the street, and is attracted to her. She stays over at the woman's house, and has a night of sexual pleasure and discovery. The message? A girl, horrified by her sexual past, becomes comfortable with herself and her sexuality.

What the story glazes over is that the girl is 16 at the time. In most states, that's statutory rape (see www.ageofconsent.com). Also, try replacing a beautiful 24-year-old woman with a dashing 24-year-old man. People would be outraged that a man took advantage of a 16-year-old girl. If the point is to tell an inspiring story about a girl who can finally become comfortable with her vagina, it is necessary to throw in legal issues and gender double-standards? For a production that's already so controversial, it doesn't seem wise to turn off more of your audience than you have to.

Don't get me wrong—I enjoyed the monologues, and would see them again next year. However, I think Eve Ensler could have made her point with less controversy.

Caltech hosted its third annual All-Comers track meet this Saturday. It was the first time in the year for the Beavers, and the athletes learned all sorts of interesting lessons.

For example, they learned that female prostitution and fornication with minors was a good thing. Peter Sadowski completed a 300m hurdles race in 42.94 seconds, which earned him fourth place and a big smiley-face sticker. In the 100m, some guy named Seth Hendrickson, who I don't really know but apparently he goes here, ran 11.94s, which is pretty good considering he didn't have a speed suit to grab his crotch for him. Dina Karnaevsky ran a personal-best 12.10 and looked pretty happy to me.

Angela Magge and Tencia Lee ran 13 or 14 seconds or so for the women. Also their names rhyme.

Another monologue was about a girl who, growing up, had unfortunate experiences with her vagina. From her early childhood when a boy punched her between her legs to landing crotch-first into her bedpost, her vagina was always a source of pain. When her father's friend raped her—and then her father shot the friend—he had nothing but horrible associations with her vagina. The redeeming part of the story is, years later, when she discovers a beautiful 24-year-old woman down the street, and is attracted to her. She stays over at the woman's house, and has a night of sexual pleasure and discovery. The message? A girl, horrified by her sexual past, becomes comfortable with herself and her sexuality.

Then treat your date to a special noon-out at the Broad Cafe with the staff of this fine publication. (Friday, noon)

Free food, and money for your articles printed by us, that is, if we print them, you get money, but I digress:

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

Then treat your date to a special noon-out at the Broad Cafe with the staff of this fine publication. (Friday, noon)

Free food, and money for your articles printed by us, that is, if we print them, you get money, but I digress:

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

Then treat your date to a special noon-out at the Broad Cafe with the staff of this fine publication. (Friday, noon)

Free food, and money for your articles printed by us, that is, if we print them, you get money, but I digress:

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

ASCIT Board of Directors
Minutes from the Olive Walk
February 8, 2006

Present:
Acting Officers: Warner Leedy, Michelle Wyatt, Todd Gingrich, Peter Foley, Pavathy Menon, Dima Kernasovsky, Ryan Farmer, Meng-Meng Fu, Michael Chang

New Officers: Jean Sun, Vickie Pon, Jonathan Senn, Craig Montuori, Cuilla Felsen, Chris Gonzales, Nathan Donnellan, Christopher Watson, RJ Krom

Guest: Matt Wierman

Absent:
Acting Officers: Kelly Lin, Jeremy Liens, Wendy Xu
New Officers: [all present]

I. Midnight donuts (Feb. 8, 2006)
Midnight donuts tonight!!!
BoD members volunteered for set up, which begins at 11:15 pm tonight.
800 donuts and almost 40 gallons of milk served outside Chandler at 11:59 pm tonight.

II. "Insolation" (Installation Dinner) TBD, within next two weeks)
Congratulations to all the new ASCIT officers!
To instate the new BoD and other officers, a dinner will be planned very soon for the official switch of powers.

III. Book for BoC
To convenience the BoC Chair and Secretary, a request for a laptop has been made. More details about pricing will be investigated and presented at the next meeting.

IV. Apache Funding
Matt requested ASCIT funding for Apache (Feb. 18, 2006).
Vote: Funding approved (4Y-ON-IA).

V. Donation to ASCIT
An donation was made out to ASCIT without BoD authorization. A meeting with Financial Services later this week will clarify details. A decision about what actions to take will be made by next week's meeting, Feb. 15, 2006.

Mmmmmmm, strawberry donuts! :-D

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Pon

Next Issue:
David Chen interviews Andre Mallie. Send your questions to davidc@its.caltech.edu by Tuesday the 14th of February, 2006 C.E.