Students Don’t Want to Pay for More of Something They Already Don’t Like

By MARISSA CEVALLOS

When more than 300 Caltech students and faculty crammed into Baxter lecture hall last week, the tension between students and administration could be felt throughout the overpacked room. However, instead of creating problems, the students created something the administration happily accepted—solutions.

Students from the Interhouse Committee (IHC) and the audience focused their questions and suggestions on the 7-day board proposal.

Brendy Cossairt, senior and Dabney president, pointed out that “prices in Chandler are 15-40% lower than local competitors. Why not increase prices there?”

Andre Mallie accent marks on both his, senior director of business enterprises, fielded the 7-day board questions. “Chandler supports a broader aspect of the community, including faculty, staff, and grad students. We cannot raise prices, or we will lose business.”

Arturo Pizano, junior and outgoing Ricketts president, also pursued the idea of adjusting meal prices, but revealed the administration’s exasperation when he asked “Is there any openness to alternative plans without extended meals?”

Andre answered, “We have to max out everywhere to return the $1.2 million, and all other proposals so far have been evaluated and fall short.”

The administration appeared worried about unforeseen consequences of a 7-day board program. When asked by RJ Krom if the administration had considered that “some students want to move off-campus,” and clarified by Matt Krogstad that “if you increase the prices of housing, there will be vacancies in student housing,” Marshak conceded that it would be “the death of Caltech as we know it.”

Erica O’Neil, Assistant Vice-President for Student Affairs, added, “We hope you will choose to remain on campus. You should be able to live where you want, we don’t want to dictate where you will live. What we want to do is be fiscally responsible. We also want to be responsive to overall institute problems, right now.”

Kim Poppendorf, Lloyd senior, pursued the same idea as Arturo. “What is the potential to modify proposed changes to the budget deeply? What changes have already been approved by trustees, and sent to state? Are students locked into 7-day board and paying for health insurance?”

Dean Currie answered, “We need to solve the delict, so as a whole, we can’t back off. Within the budget we have now, we can talk and talk, but need to implement and then try to re-evaluate as we go through, so long as the bottom line remains the same.”

Subsequent questions were aimed at targeting the problem—dining services needs to make $150,000 profit—and coming up with alternate solutions. Surprisingly, the suggestions prompted the administrative attitude to shift throughout the course of the meeting.

Sarah Peck suggested forming student committees to review the way money is divided among undergraduate life.

“…you want to raise money from 7-day board. Would it be possible to make a list of where students spend money, propose raises, give to IHC or other student committees, and have students vote for what raises they want?”

Sarah’s suggestion was met with applause from the audience, and more willingness from the administration.

Margo Marshak, vice president of Student Affairs and moderator of the town hall meeting, replied, “We’d need to find a viable way to carry out this proposal that would get a lot of input from students.”

The most popular solution, and with the most receptive administration response, came from Dima Kumalov.

“So the net increase in profits needs to be $150,000. There are about 1,000 undergraduates. If we all pay $50 per student per term, then there would be no need for 7-day board. Comment?”

After a long, prolonged applause, Mallie seemed receptive to the idea.

“Seems yes, but we need to designate a committee to analyze that.”

Such a committee, in fact, was formed in less than 48 hours after the meeting. Margo Marshak introduced the Task Force Committee to review alternatives to the 7-day board plan by February 10.

“I thought that we really have very little time to come to some better solution, and so I thought if we got a lot of good minds together, people who have already been thinking about the problem and are concerned—I mean the faculty, staff, and students—that we’d have a better chance to come to a resolution to meet all of our needs,” said Margo Marshak in an interview.

Marshak also believes that the administration will take the committee seriously.

“I think that everyone at this point will be pleased if we can resolve this issue,” said Marshak. “We still have the same financial goals, we just have to find some other way to meet them.”

The initiation of the Task Force also addresses an overarching concern of many of the students over the administration’s unilateral decision-making. Asked Rocky Velázquez at the town hall meeting, “Why wasn’t time take to consult students? In my opinion, this was told to the IHC rather than having consulted with them.”

Though the main tension was between students and administration, it was clear that the stress is wearing down cooperation between administrative members themselves. When Margo Marshak was asked if she’d complained about the cuts, she replied with a laugh, “My boss tells me I haven’t been a team player,” said Margo Marshak, to the applause of the students.

“…our job is to advocate for all of you, but on another side, there’s Caltech reality, and I need every one of you to help us get through what’s a difficult time, making the best decisions we can, and I’m glad to hear decisions that you don’t like. The dollar crisis won’t change, and we need to do something about that.”

Other topics discussed included Matt Krogstad’s concern over when the South Houses will be completely renovated. Bonnie Khang-Krout replied that the houses wouldn’t be ready until Dec 15-January 2.

Students claimed that parking was yet another issue they were not consulted about. John Shen asked, “In 2005, parking fees were implemented for the whole Caltech community. Was under-grad and grad feedback solicited for this?”

Dean Currie answered, “This was my biggest blunder.”

Students also addressed the quality of future Caltech students. Said Meng-Meng Fu, “…you’ve tried to argue that we’re cheaper than peer institutions. What I’m worried about is that people will choose to go to other places.”

Thanks to Elizabeth Fong and Hyungmin Park for additional written coverage, and Evan Murphy for audio/visual coverage.
To Whom It May Concern at Caltech:

I am contributing my $2,500 – a modest amount compared to some – under graduates. This problem, and the protest, have to do with the changes in the athletic facilities and, in particular, with the loss of the open field at Caltech.

I have lived in the area around Caltech for a long time. Roughly twenty five years ago, both the south and north fields were open, and people from the community played on them just like the students.

I remember at the time my sense of frustration when the athletic department built a fence to close off the south field, because it cut off both the track and the field from the community around Caltech, making the institution more restrictive and exclusive.

But there was always the north field, where I could run at night or kick a ball around or simply to sit on a bench, and think about things, under the spreading oak. Since the north field was times two in front of the old gym. Now, as you know, the north field has been enclosed and cut off. Not just from use by members of the community, but also from students, faculty, alumni and associates.

Use of the north field is now limited to members of the baseball team. The baseball team does not have women players and plays in an all-male league, which is not unusual for a college men’s base-ball team. The result is, that within the size of the north field and excluding hundreds of students and members of the community from the field, the athletic department has effectively ex- cluded all women from two thirds of the open field on campus. (The baseball team says that women are free to try out but it is highly unusual, although it did happen once a couple years ago, for a woman to gain a position on a men’s team in baseball.)

I have looked at satellite photos to confirm my eyelash impression that the north field is two times

The whole deal takes about two years per state, and the plan is to do an album for every state. I said earlier that there is another, that I will get to later, which I am told this time I remembered! It is a process that involves describing a process that involved digging through local folklore. Yeah, this album isn’t new, but I have lived in the area around Caltech, and for field space that was, in the past, largely met. With the with- drawal of members of intramural teams and the all-women frisbee team from use of any open field during that time, the athletic department has effectively re- covered. (Or, this week, for example, we learned that it is not a south field is blanked out for the entire year in the reservation book because it is being used for another purpose!) Now, the South field is cut off for twenty five years of use, so this construction effective- ly cancels the south field and thus, in my mind, cancels the south field as an athletic field for the community that surrounds Caltech.

The athletic department has effectively canceled the south field and causes the south field to be gone in a couple of years, at least. As a result, there is another, that I will get to later, which I am now happy to repay that debt and stay involved with a great institution and loyalty from the com- munity, and is one way to attract donors. And, in the other way to look at the matter in eco- nomic terms. members of the student body, including fe­ male athletes at Caltech. Even on this side of the closed off南北区分, the interest of the many has been traded for the benefit of the few.

I said earlier that there is another means of that expression - and very substantial restriction of the open space at Caltech has the overall effect of bringing appreci­ ation and loyalty from the com- munity, and is one way to attract donors. And, in the other way to look at the matter in eco- nomic terms. members of the student body, including fe­ male athletes at Caltech. Even on this side of the closed off南北区分, the interest of the many has been traded for the benefit of the few.

Open fields are used by members of the community on a bench, and think about things, under the spreading oak that was on a bench, and think about things, under the spreading oak that was on a bench, and think about things, under the spreading oak that was on a bench, and think about things, under the spreading oak that was on a bench, and think about things, under the spreading oak that was on a bench, and think about things, under the spreading oak that was on a bench, and think about things, under the spreading oak.

I was on the south field and I was not in a financial po­ sition to reserve space on the south field to practice - I am told this by a number of GSC members who wanted to play ultimate frisbee behind the23,724 fence of the north field to have a game. In other words, even though they are students at Caltech, they are closed off from a restricted field in order to play. As a related example, soccer and frisbee players have taken to playing somewhere else for open field around campus for practice and pick-up games, space that is not intended for sports. The result is, that as a student I told me last week, second space is now being used up, and the people in the south field to practice - I am told this by a number of GSC members who wanted to play ultimate frisbee behind the23,724 fence of the north field to have a game. In other words, even though they are students at Caltech, they are closed off from a restricted field in order to play. As a related example, soccer and frisbee players have taken to playing somewhere else for open field around campus for practice and pick-up games, space that is not intended for sports. The result is, that as a student I told me last week, second space is now being used up, and the people in the south field are checked or controlled. I was told by the principal of use the south field to practice - I am told this by a number of GSC members who wanted to play ultimate frisbee behind the23,724 fence of the north field to have a game. In other words, even though they are students at Caltech, they are closed off from a restricted field in order to play. As a related example, soccer and frisbee players have taken to playing somewhere else for open field around campus for practice and pick-up games, space that is not intended for sports. The result is, that as a student I told me last week, second space is now being used up, and the people in the south field are checked or controlled. I was told by the principal of use the south field to practice - I am told this by a number of GSC members who wanted to play ultimate frisbee behind the23,724 fence of the north field to have a game. In other words, even though they are students at Caltech, they are closed off from a restricted field in order to play. As a related example, soccer and frisbee players have taken to playing somewhere else for open field around campus for practice and pick-up games, space that is not intended for sports. The result is, that as a student I told me last week, second space is now being used up, and the people in the south field are checked or controlled. I was told by the principal of use the south field to practice - I am told this by a number of GSC members who wanted to play ultimate frisbee behind the23,724 fence of the north field to have a game. In other words, even though they are students at Caltech, they are closed off from a restricted field in order to play. As a related example, soccer and frisbee players have taken to playing somewhere else for open field around campus for practice and pick-up games, space that is not intended for sports. The result is, that as a student I told me last week, second space is now being used up, and

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An Open Letter to Margo Marshak

By DIMA KAMALOV

Dear Margo Marshak,

I would like to share several comments about the Town Hall meeting and the budget cuts it concerned.

First, I think it was a great idea to post the website with the budgetary information prior to the meeting. This website is a good first step in helping communication between students and administration. Thanks!

Second, I will try to propose a few naive solutions for two of the issues we talked about.

a. Seven Day Board

Pros: funding for Dining Cons: students kept entirely on campus, charged more for worse food than off-campus.

Numbers involved (all estimated as I do not have precise budgetary information; it is difficult for a student to get in timely contact with other students):

- $150,000/year profit for CDS
- $140/term/student ($440/term/student)*400 students
- $528,000/year paid by students

Assuming a typical student can eat out for $30/weekend ($150/year profit for CDS), this means that paying for board student would likely be more desirable than this change. This would bring in ($140/term/student)*400 students = $168,000. Another possibility is to have the entire undergraduate population be charged the entire undergraduate, and a budget breakdown from CDS would be very beneficial in either understanding the rationale, or giving more appropriate suggestions.

b. Undergraduate communication with administration

I think most communication problems are solved pretty simply: talking. When you don't know what the student body would think of some thing, ask some of us. In addition, instead of having something like Open Houses, which cost money, you could just provide five day board and give the money back to us in form of reduced board prices the following year.

As a quick send, I find myself rather confused by the financial analysis involving the rest of the budget, my especially since I do not have access to a good budget breakdown. Nevertheless, some of the claims Andre Mallie makes seem unusual. For one, if the Citrus Bistro is being kept purely because Averny needs a place to eat, why are they being charged under market value while the rest of students are being charged over market value? It definitely exists like the rising cost is being shouldered unreasonably by the undergraduate, and a budget breakdown from CDS would be very beneficial in either understanding the rationale, or giving more appropriate suggestions.

Another very important thing I would like to share several comments about the Town Hall meeting and the budget cuts it concerned.

Best of luck, and thanks for your time.

Sincerely yours,

Dima Kamalov

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Sarah Payne guards a UC Berkeley player

Dizzying Discus Dynasties

Game 1: Tech vs. UCLA (B): 6-7
Caltech was almost evenly matched with UCLA’s B team—so evenly matched, that the two teams spent the entire game either tied or within a few points of each other. Caltech was tied 6-6 with UCLA before UCLA scored the winning point, but not without an intense last point where the disc changed possession near the end-zone over five times. Because the field was windy—Santa Barbara is on the ocean—Caltech took advantage of UCLA’s long-range inaccuracy and forced them to throw long shots. Sarah Payne, captain, used her height to throw hammer above UCLA’s defense into the end-zone. Says Tech player Tai Carvalho, “Our long throws were excellent.”

Mary Dunlop consistently knocked down several discs, preventing a completion for the other team. Though the game was intense, Sarah managed to crack up the sidelines when she complained that a missed pass was too low to the ground. “Guys, I’m six feet tall—you can throw a little higher!”

Berkeley is one of the better women’s frisbee teams in California, as could be inferred from Tech’s meager score against them. Still, Tech gave Berkeley a tough game, forcing them to play smart offense and defense. The high-light of the game was when Sarah scored Tech’s only point. Suzanne Golisz hucked the disc over two Berkeley defenders, but Sarah was able to grab the disc from the air for the point.

Game 3: Tech vs. Cal Poly: 4-13
Tech admittedly started the game with a bit too much confidence—in the UCSD tournament in November, Tech soundly defeated Cal Poly’s team, which has been in existence for almost two decades (while Caltech’s team was only formed during 2005’s first term). So when Cal Poly played swift points all through the first half, Tech was a bit confused. However, Tai scored Tech’s first point in the game (after a 0-6 shock) through a clever play in the end-zone. Four girls lined up vertically in the endzone with their defenders to their side. At the beginning of the stall count, every girl ran horizontally to the side of the endzone, while Tai also made a hard fake in that direction. She then turned...
to sprint into the open space and caught the disc.

Game 4: Tech vs. UCSD (A): 1-13
The UCSD game was similar to that against Berkeley--UCSD is an extremely well-seasoned team. Tech used the game as a "learning opportunity"--they were able to try out new strategies, like zone defense, with new players, since Tech had little to lose. Tech experimented with new codewords to indicate a change in strategy; any biology-related word (for example, "protein" and "amino") indicated that defenders should switch from "zone" to "man" defense; any astronomy-related term (Neptune was used) indicated a switch from man to zone. The codewords obviously worked: freshman Lizzy Trower scored a fantastic point when Sarah hucked the disc halfway down the field into the endzone. The highlight of the game was at the last point, when UCSD was up 12-1--Sarah suggested a "naked point." All of the girls on Caltech's line took off their shirts, and UCSD followed suit. Fourteen girls in sports bras, shorts, and cleats ran across the field for the last point of the day.

Caltech celebrated its respectful loss with take-out Mexican food overlooking a Santa Barbara sunset.

Game 5: Tech vs. Berkeley (B): 7-11
Berkeley the first game on Sunday morning, was a fantastic game against a fantastic team. Though Caltech started gaining in the second half, a strong wind picked up that forced many turnovers. Unfortunately, at 7-10, hard cap was called--the game had to finish in five minutes. Tech had a difficult time picking up the score in such a short time, even if they were playing with no wind. If the game had run to fifteen points, as is standard, Tech's momentum could have surely pushed their score past Berkeley's.

Game 6: Tech v. UCSD (B): 6-3
Tech's first win finally came in its last game. For the first few points of the game, the wind was still a major factor in Tech's throws--Sarah couldn't, for example, consistently huck the disc across the field and count on the wind not to throw it completely off of its path. So when UCSD played zone on Tech's offense, Tech thrived. Making short, consistent passes, Tech worked the disc up the windy field and into the endzone. Louisa Liberman made several excellent catches in the deep zone when a handler (usually Tai or Sarah) surprised UCSD with a deep throw beyond its defense. This time, the hard cap called worked in Tech's favor: UCSD only had 10 minutes to pull up from 5-2, and the windy conditions made such a goal nearly impossible.

After the final game, Caltech celebrated its only win with a human pyramid and Mexican food.
Even before I had read what I now consider to be the biggest waste of time of my life, people were coming to me in the hallways asking me if I was going to write a response. My reply, without even knowing how irrelevant the response to my original article was to the issue I brought up was, “you better fucking believe it.” Somehow, my article erodes this person’s chance at having a satisfying Caltech experience. It couldn’t have been all that satisfying if simply mentioning flaws within Avery’s house status and administrative decisions has caused this replying author to cry yet again.

While the article claims to be criticizing my points, it does nothing less than strengthen my arguments. I did not hear of the circumcision of a senior in Avery, however, if I had, I might have 5 times as much respect for Avery as I do now, which would still be none at all.

It is unfortunate that doors were knocked on during midterms. I had “a neighbor installing bookshelves being drilled into concrete walls during 3rd term midterms last year, but still managed not to send e-mails to the offending party with absolutely absurd suggestions to correct the matter.

While an ill-informed author accuses me of being “one unhapp...
You Know Who You Arrrrrrrrrrr...  

By PAULINE KU

How does one turn a Tech party into even more of a sausage fest than it already is? Add one prolific creepy fucker. Nothing ruins a party or comparable social event as instantaneously and effectively as being sexually harassed. Almost every single on-campus case of sexual harassment I've encountered has been during, before, or around an open house social event, which is at once encouraging and discouraging. While it is better that the harassment happens in isolated incidents, it shouldn't happen at all, especially with such noticeably increased frequency during house or interhouse social events.

After working nonstop for the past week I need to unwind, and I believe I have earned the right to actually enjoy myself here, just for one night. Therefore, I live for the weekend social events here. What gets me through problem set after problem set, exam after disheartening exam, is that brief interlude where I can forget and have fun. So when some fucker ruins a night I've been waiting and counting upon to get me through the next horrendous week all I want to do is smash his head, or any sensitive part of his body in with a trusty sledgehammer. But also, there are consequences for such actions, and this is just something he'll have to learn a different way.

While I couldn't do anything to prevent what happened, I do have certain faculty called my RA, and a certain vice called a grudge, and I will do everything I can to make sure that neither he nor anybody else makes me or anyone else feel that uncomfortable again. You, creepy, vile, disgusting bastard, are no longer welcome in my house and this includes our kickass interhouse party later on this term. If seen there you will be asked kindly or not so kindly to leave by my fellow housemates and friends, the RA or Security. If you think this is an unusually aggressive retaliation consider this: I was not the only one who was made to feel this uncomfortable before, or around an open house social event, which is at least the case of sexual harassment I've encountered has been during the last week I need to unwind, and I believe I have earned the right to actually enjoy myself here, just for one night. Therefore, I live for the weekend social events here. What gets me through problem set after problem set, exam after disheartening exam, is that brief interlude where I can forget and have fun. So when some fucker ruins a night I've been waiting and counting upon to get me through the next horrendous week all I want to do is smash his head, or any sensitive part of his body in with a trusty sledgehammer. But also, there are consequences for such actions, and this is just something he'll have to learn a different way.

Before the general ASCIT elections, I'd like to clarify a few misperceptions. I typically wouldn't feel the need to write an article, but I worry that some candidates may be unfairly discriminated against. This article is not meant to encourage you to vote for any specific candidate but to encourage you to vote for the candidate who is most qualified for the job.

Last term, Fleming House planned to request $100 in mul- tihouse funding from ASCIT for a poker tournament. The poker tournament had a $10 buy-in with cash prizes, and Fleming wanted to provide snacks for the event. Fleming representatives missed the meeting to request funding and requested funding after the event. Because the activity had gambling involved, I was worried that ASCIT could be liable if we were audited. Six years ago, ASCIT was audited by the IRS, and it was found that ASCIT had mismanaged funds and not kept proper track of payments. Caltech Business/Finance stepped in and managed to convince the IRS not to revoke our tax-exempt status and to drop any fines.

The State of California requires a special license to allow sponsorship or involvement in any sort of gambling. Obviously this does not apply to small private gatherings, but a non-profit corporation would certainly be prohibited from having anything to do with that, so ASCIT would be liable if it had funded this tournament. I consulted with Caltech Business/Finance employees, and they believed that the tournament could be considered illegal to fund.

Given this information, I let the ASCIT BoD know what the Caltech legal department thought. Funding was denied on the basis of legality, not because we decided Fleming shouldn't have any money. Furthermore, Fleming representatives simply came back a week later and asked for $100 for another event, which was unanimously given. You might wonder why we didn't simply fund the original event, given that finances worked out exactly the same way, with Fleming receiving $100 for an event they wouldn't have otherwise requested funding for. This decision merely removed liability from ASCIT and allowed Fleming to make its own decision to have the event, also something that would most likely not be audited. In the long run, the same amount of money was distributed. In fact, this was the only motion that failed during the entire term. Because ASCIT makes its meeting minutes a matter of public record, an audit would have easily discovered this possible violation and cost the students their non-profit status and a hefty amount of fees.

I hope that clarifies the events of that day. Should you have questions, feel free to contact me at ryanf@caltech.edu.
COMING NEXT ISSUE:
The debut of our new weekly column,
"The Wild World of Administration"
To usher in this monolithic new feature, the California Tech is soliciting questions from all readers to the administrator of their choice.

Send your questions to craig@its.caltech.edu

Lloydies are People Too

By MENG-MENG FU

House bashing: it’s not allowed during Rotation, but somehow it’s surfacing during our Caltech election season. To the fans of “Bitch is Housa,” as a Lloydie who has been on ASCIT during two different administrations, I offer an accurate view of the BoD.

Each BoD member has one vote. However, the President has traditionally forfeited his vote except in the case of a tie. When Houses or clubs request funding, they are required to come to our weekly meeting on the Olive Walk. Last term, only one funding request was rejected. Two House requested funding for an inter-house event: $100 each. They did this via email, after the BoD meeting, two days before the event. The request was rejected, 5-3, not 4-4, on legal grounds: ASCIT did not want to be liable for supporting a gambling event with cash prizes. Subsequently, both Houses received their In-terhouse funding for the term for another activity. Back in the day, when Fleming controlled the BoD, ASCIT money was allotted for Fleming’s Wine and Candlelight. It was because of fear of corruption that funding is now denied in the event of a tied vote.

I do hope there is a better distribution of Houses on next year’s BoD. This year, it was dominated by Lloydies and Darbs. However, regardless of House affiliation, many outgoing BoD members served on ASCIT because they cared a great deal about the school and more even about the student body. Michelle has been one of the most competent and passionate BoC Chair’s I’ve known. Peer is a diplomatic and effective IHC Chair. And, with Formal at the Natural History Museum and the Jimmy Eat World concert under his belt, Dima is undoubtedly the most awesome Social Directo
tor ever.

In the year to come, many challenges will be presented to the undergraduate student body. From the Town Hall Meeting, I could tell that many people are passionate about the direction of our school. Issues like 7-day board are on all our minds, but other key changes, such as health care, cannot be forgotten. Next year, tuition will no longer cover health insurance, and financial aid will not account for the cost of health care. This means that some students may no longer be insured. And, though many of us are insured under our parents’ health plans, few of us would be comfortable handling parents an itemized list for counseling and birth control.

Next year’s BoD will need to focus on improving communication with the administration, increasing student awareness of critical issues, and maintaining a united front with the IHC. It is our responsibility to vote not along lines of House divisions, but for the best candidates for the job. These new BoD members will need to be aware of vital changes, concerned about the welfare of the student body, and masochistic enough to deal with the long hours of commitment, and hopefully they will continue to entertain us with juicy bits about man-brass in the ASCIT minutes.

A Re-Jection Letter

By CAROLINE LI

(Partly rewritten from a post in a Chinese discussion forum)
Dear Graduate Admission Committee:
Thank you for your interest in giving me a rejection letter.
I have reviewed your letter and am impressed with your reasons for rejection and suggestions for my future academic development.
However, I have received many qualified rejections letters this year. Under careful consideration, I regret to inform you that I decided not to accept your rejection letter.
Please understand that this is not a negative evaluation of your rejection letter, but rather a reflection of my unique choice criteria. Once again, I appreciate your courage and kind interests to give me a rejection letter and wish you every success in your future endeavors in rejecting.
Sincerely,
Applicant

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125