New Elephant Bench in Honor of the Former Dean

BY VIBHA LALJANI

The contributions of former Dean Jean-Paul Revel to undergraduate life were honored in a ceremony put together by the BoD on June 2. The BoD presented Prof. Revel with an 'elephant bench' to celebrate his energy and his commitment to undergrads. Former UDAl, Ryan Farmer said, 'The idea originated with Galen Loram's BoD when Prof. Revel announced that he was planning on retiring. Shaun Lee (then UDAl) knew Stuart Freed, a teacher at Polytechnic (the local high school) who also taught the Ceramics class and found out that he was a very gifted woodworker. The two then came up with an initial sketch. Stuart needed to take some time off, and so when I became UDAl, I worked with Stuart to further revise the plans. The design came from a speech Dean Revel gave to the class of 2003 when they first entered where he described students as 'elephants that would one day turn into swans'. This analogy stuck in everyone's minds and influenced the initial design (a bench with an elephant). Stuart designed everything once we had communicated our desire to have a bench with an elephant.'

Caltechers kept up their tradition of being unconventional even in the 'unveiling' of the bench. Administrators and students sat on the bench with Prof. Revel and admired its comfort and beautiful art work, raising the 'veil'. The elephant bench now resides on the second floor of the Center for Student Services, which houses the deans' office, as well. It serves as a symbol of the work and effort put in by Prof. Revel, from the deans' office, which was his home. A lot of planning and work has been put into designing the elephant bench. In addition to Stuart, who did the exquisite artwork, Ryan Farmer helped significantly with the planning. Current UDAl, Nathan Donnellan, inherited this responsibility when the ASCIT acquired new leadership.

New Speed Bumps Effectively Protect Pedestrians

BY CHANDRA BARNETT

When Campus Planning last month laid down a new set of speed bumps on Holliston Avenue, the arresting black-and-yellow strips drew the eyes of more than drivers. With cost-cutting measures in place, new development on campus is viewed with some suspicion, and many have wondered why these speed bumps are necessary.

The truth is that the usually calm and slow-moving traffic on Holliston Avenue has become quite heavy at certain times of the day, especially during the morning and evening rush hours, when impatient drivers use the Sun Pasqual-Holliston route to avoid congestion at the intersection of Hill and Del Mar.

Additionally, the placement of the Blacker, Ricketts, and Dabney Mods means that there is an unusual amount of foot traffic moving across Holliston at all hours – with Holliston Ave now separating these residents from classes, food, and friends, there is a steady stream of students crossing at the Avery Circle and P-Plant, not all of whom are necessarily paying any attention to vehicular traffic.

Since this traffic is at times moving at speeds of up to 45mph – quite a bit more than the 5mph speed limit stated for all campus roads – a number of close calls have been reported or witnessed by students and staff, and some action was deemed necessary.

After reviewing the possible methods for improving traffic control, Gregg Henderson of Parking and Security determined that self-enforcing, inexpensive speed bumps were the best choice.

By placing them on either side of the two marked crosswalks on Holliston, the department is able to provide protected pedestrian crossings. Due attention was paid to the bottom line; Henderson explained that the plastic speed bumps were chosen primarily as a more cost-effective option than the more permanent asphalt.

As an added advantage, however, clever Caltech cutters-through began avoiding the expensive new equipment by cutting into the opposing lane in a more dangerous slalom maneuver. This car enjoys one of the new speed bumps installed on Holliston Avenue to encourage safe driving.

The modular nature of the bumps meant that work crews were able to easily extend the strips across the entire roadway.
Scholarship Winners

The Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee is pleased to an-
ounce the recipients of the 2006-2007 Upper Class Merit Awards. These awards are based on outstanding scholastic achievement, re-
search, and related endeavors.

The Upper Class Merit Awards are made possible through contri-
butions from generous donors who have endowed the competition. Scholarships for the 2006-07 academic year will be provided by the
Stuart Foundation, The Wasserman Foundation, the John Stauffer Scholarship (earmarked for Chemistry/Chemical Engineering mi-
s), and Jonathan W. Alcott Scholarship.

The Committee awarded nearly one million dollars to this year’s recipients. The following students will receive awards ranging from
approximately $5,000 to $37,600 for the next academic year:

- Carnation Merit Award
  (Stuart Foundation)
  Jonathan Arnold
  Robert Fisher
  Angela Felsen
  David Fisher
  Evelyn Felsen
  Callia Pena
  Daniel Pu
  Ilya Gekhtman
  Yuna Geng
  Mike Grinolds
  Yang Hai
  Kenneth Ho
  Nicholas Hutzer
  Jimmy Jin
  Anthony Kelman
  Wei Li
  Kelly Lin
  Victor Liu
  Po-Ru Loh
  Po-Ling Ma
  Vivek Malmaud
  Aditya Malmrnad
  Shahfik Pepe
  Rebecca Perez
  Truong-Duy Pham
  Haan Yang
  Shi Wang
  Roman Yan
  Ziming Zhao
  Yi Xin
  Jonathan Fishman
  Po-Ling Tan
  Yijia Chen
  Ilia Popa
  Yan Zhan
  Yinfeng Zhan
  Zhiyi Zhao
  Recep Zilber

Polishing the Bent
The Bent was formerly covered by a brown patina and green corrosion, but the Beta Psi members spent four hours sanding and polishing it.
The club decided to polish the Bent because people passing by did not notice what the sculpture was, and the club members needed to have a closer look now.

The club members who helped with the polishing were President Eddie Truong-Cao, Vice President Steve Gray, Secretary Victor Liu, Treasurer Tony Kelman, James Mao, and
John Xia.

The chapter, California Beta, would like to thank John Von Dusen for advice on polishing the sculpture and Prof. Michael Vivic for serving as the club’s faculty advisor.
Taur Beta Psi is the national engineering honor society. Members are elected and initiated during their Junior or Senior year, and eligibility is determined by class rank. Members must be either in the top 1/8 of their junior engineering class or the top 1/5 of their Senior engineering class.
With many of its core software suites entering a new “clear, consistent, connected” generation, Microsoft has also been revamping its omnipresent Office Franchise and is set to release the 12th edition of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc. in 2007 following the launch of Windows Vista.

Normally, a Microsoft Office launch is nothing special, with the last few editions in a decade or so virtually identical in use and feel to the version before. So this time, Microsoft has decided to redo one of the most popular software suites in the world from the ground up, with a new XML-based document format and a brand new user interface.

Part of the drive to redesign Office came from the sentiment that, as fully as the Office feature set was developed, most Office users were not taking advantage of all the available tools. So, Microsoft adopted a new “results-oriented” design philosophy which would call for a re-arrangement of features to reflect faster access to features of the software. The result was Office 2007, which Microsoft released to the general public as a beta on May 23rd – anyone with a genuine copy of Windows can still obtain it off the Microsoft servers. Although it is still a beta and subject to instability issues and other bugs, I managed to get my hands on it and have been using it ever since.

The Ribbon and Contextual Tabs
The first noteworthy thing is that they did away with the traditional pull-down menus that obscured all the more specific commands and came up with a larger, more graphics-oriented toolbox called “The Ribbon.”

Like the older toolbars, the Ribbon is fully customizable in showing the most commonly used commands and is grouped into major categories at the bottom. In a Mac-like way, these command are displayed in large and pretty graphics to show their purposes. However, the changes are not merely cosmetic and serve important functional purposes. The most innovative part of the Ribbon is the inclusion of tabbed categories at the top. The tabs on the Ribbon display the commands most relevant for each of the task areas in the program and each Office program is organized in such a way.

Advanced users who have been running Office for years will find the switch a bit disorienting in the initial moments but will get used quite intuitively.

My personal learning curve didn’t take more than a couple of minutes to ramp up. However, new users and users that don’t usually take advantage of advanced Office features will find this an eye-opening experience and benefit most from this redesign. They will find the Ribbon well laid-out and easy to use.

Remember the strange boxes that just suddenly appear and disappear when adding pictures or tables? Well, those toolbars now exist as Contextual Tabs in Office 2007, appearing when certain elements are called upon.

So, the commands for editing a chart do not appear until a chart appears in a spreadsheet and the user is focusing on modifying it. Perhaps the best part of this feature is the elimination of desktop clutter and taking advantage of the toolbar area for tabs.

Live Preview and Galleries
Galleries and Live Preview are perhaps my favorite part about the revamped version of Office and really translates to Microsoft’s mantra of “results.”

Many, many functions are grouped into Galleries, from the page margins to chart styles to headers and footers, all in preformatted and pre-designed templates to choose from. This set of potential simplifies the process of producing professional looking work but traditional dialog box interfaces are still available for custom-tweaking of the look and feel of a document, spreadsheet, and presentation.

To enhance this Gallery feature, the developers at Microsoft instituted Live Preview. Just as it is named, it shows the “results” of applying an editing or formatting change as the user moves the pointer over the list presented in any Gallery.

It is new and dynamic, and is perhaps the best practical change in Office. Simply rolling over the fonts in the typeset list allows a user to view in real time how the document will look differently with the selected change, and is instituted in just about every Gallery-type list pane presented in Office.

New File Formats
Structurally, Office is vastly changed as well. In a vast and controversial step forward, Office’s new file format for saving documents is the new Microsoft Office Open-XML format (*.DOCX), which is similar to Sun Microsystems’s OpenDocument format (*.ODF) in its speed, compressibility, and security features.

Some have viewed this change as an attempt to derail the successful OpenOffice project despite Microsoft’s proclamation of this format as open source and a drive to versatility.

Even beyond the composing format, Office 2007 users can get to save in Adobe PDF format, precluding the need to have Adobe Acrobat to create PDF print documents.

Adobe Systems has since complained extensively over this new feature set, especially since Office has also given users the option to save documents in the XPS format (formerly termed ‘Metro’), which is a print format that provides similar capabilities to the PDF format.

A legal battle between Adobe and Microsoft is brewing in the horizon, so these features may or may not be included in the final version of Office 2007. My initial impressions of the PDF converter is that it is quite fast, but not particularly high resolution; creating high-quality PDF documents would still require the use of Acrobat.
BY: MARK EICHLAEB

Five years ago (as of when I originally typed this line), Friday, May 11, 2001, was a day which involved many committals(1), as the time was the day when most of my readers will have already observed or will be about to observe at least for the morbid among us, it was also the day Douglas Adams untimely and, perhaps, to some, mercifully(2) attack(1). I remember that day why my parents remember the day, for it is to say, not at all. My parents don’t remember anything from the 60’s(2), CPB, or whatever(3) press them for details as to why. In any case, I went home that day to look up the date of Adams’ death. The entire research process, which to point in this column has re- vealed between two and thirteen facts, depending on the creativity of your counting algorithm, took about six hours(2), because as you can guess, when you look up on Wikipedia, I proved incapable of restraining myself from clicking on every blue links throughout the articles. To me those links are like raisins in bran muffins(1), they are vaguely important but impre- cise and distracting.

Clicking little blue links has be- come my compulsion. It goes like this: I type in some vaguely Kyneconian economic keys -> see text “Russian bullshitter” underlined in blue -> click -> read -> click -> read and even more exciting multime- dia-embedded advertisements(2).

Back in real life, Wahoo’s Taco’s undertake their name in black(1), and I was once would half way down Lake Avenue I stopped and punched my fist into the logo to see if it would glow(1), an hour before realizing that I was not on the Internet(2), was on Candid Cannibal(2), and according to Nielsen Media Re- search (a company owned my the California conjugate Vomer, and which rating system is most widely quoted by sports(1), there was potential bias induced because sample families are aware that Nielsen Media Research(1) viewing(1), 2.1% of 110.2 million viewers(1), and viewing households would, after a three month production lag pe- riod, be imitated(1), and my parents’ doofusness from the sagging, termite-infested floor of their own kitchen(1), just one day to Domino’s Buffalo Wings bones

A smiling and non-smiling Caltech student to the pet iguana and screaming at each other to take out the damn trash already so help us God(2). He’s available for assistance in this area every Sunday morning at Pam, central, just call the till free number at the bottom of your screen.

Triumphs of my personal life began, I started writing this article as an homage to Douglas Adams. Have you noticed the Caltech community’s most beloved hu- mor science-fiction-five book- trilogy writer(2)? But when I started writing three weeks ago is “I love deadlines. I like the wh-wooshing sound they make as they fly by(1),” I got no further than a first sentence before I realized I had very little original insight. I solved this difficulty by learning, after a three-hour orgy of purifying random Internet links, that Braddock, Pennsyl- vania is located ten miles above the mouth of the Monongahela River(1), and has a population of 2,912 as of the 2000 census(1).

After continued reckless lane- hopping across the great information superhighway, I alighted at last upon Wikipedia’s entry for Caltech. In my professional jour- nalist opinion, the article lacks are, (mostly about how miserable we were at last week’s Tech complaining diatribe quite). reassuring. I went to that article, and punched my fist into the paper(1), and once when I

Says Caltech, “our students are happy! They go on cool adventures, red-herring searchs, and the like!” They’re just like the rest of us(2)!

But occasionally a Caltech student smiles(1), and normally this is because commencement is over(1), and after fourteen terms, three through Chla, and 72,246 in attendance(1), the Caltech students celebrated another passing of the undated spontaneous(1)!

When I look at the gut reactions to the numerous student-faculty clashes over the past two years, I generally see one of two attitudes: indignant anger or apathy. The result is that we come together to the spread. I’m glad you simply couldn’t imagine that cats won’t be allowed and us

I feel that food is far the most important criterion for saying a party. As such, I would like to formally apologize to all the guests of our food commitment for our lack of sustance. Rest assured that in future years we’ll try to be more charitable of our budget to pastries, milk- shakes, and smoothies.

I never doubt that we’ll ever be able to serve drinks out there who are just too shy to ask for a little help, and the little vans parked at Caltech’s Center at the doors. With their support, I’m sure that you’ll be able to find suitable trading partners and quickly resolve the issue of talking to someone. Hell, when all the last- minute rush for milkshakes and double stacked plate of food. It really irritates me when small talk and conversation gets in the way of my serious. Obviously, I could just dispense with the formalities and start hosting Interhouse buffets!

I believe the spirit of the prank is slowly being smothered, both by our growing academic demands on students, and by the adminis- tration’s unwillingness to let stu- dents express creativity outside of the confines they strictly outline. If you’ve just learned to play and have fun(2), but don’t un- derstand the same(2).

The Tech is published weekly except during holidays and exam periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily those of the Tech. Letters and editorials are welcome; email submissions and advertisements should be submitted to tech@caltech.edu. For example, take Tony Falk’s article in last week’s Tech complaining about the lack of quality food and drink at BFP. While I certainly appreciate your poetic concerns about describing your epic drink quest at BFP, wouldn’t your time be better spent on some more fruitful pursuit? From the sounds of it, you have nothing better to do than to blow out my $400 per annum burning spot. Despite popular opinion, going to college does not have to be an endless battle against The Man(2). Students, the adminis- tration, and Caltech-MIT Comics $7 to research Star Wars(1), and in the past years they have created more and more au- thentic student-admistration communication(1). And to The Man himself, we don’t hate you. We just get a little ruffled some- times, and if you’re reasonable with us, chances are pretty good we’ll be reasonable back(2). So next time you’re lampooning the powers that be from the powers that be, you’d better keep your shots to the left and right of the fence.

I would like to think that if Douglas Ad- asms were a Caltech student today, he’d be conducting a SURF to see if storing dogs would cut CDS costs(2), or building him- self a giant treehouse to stake out the box office of his $400 per annum budgeting spot. I

I now spend my days locked in

the land of quirky

the land of his $400 per annum

Box.

I learned

I'm glad

I'm glad

I wrote

Letters and editorials are welcome; email submissions and advertisements should be submitted to tech@caltech.edu. I

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DECODE HIS HALF-SMILE
Is He Looking For SEX -- Or Love?

TODD GINGRICH
On Sex, Drugs, and Semiconductor Theory!

WAYS TO PLEASE YOUR MAN
Caltech Students Provide Their Hot Tips

Staying Skinny at Tech

REAL LIFE SHOCKER!
"I Think My Best Friend Is A Murderer"
WOULD YOU TELL THE COPS?

WARNING:
OPERATOR OVERLOAD!
Time to Lose Weight for Summer
By Tony Falk

It's June, a time of hot days at the beach and hot nights (in lab) and most people want to get in shape to go to the beach. On the other hand, maybe you just want to look good in a lab coat while SURFing. Regardless, almost everyone wants to know the secret to losing a few pounds in a short time. That's why I, and my dedicated research staff, have talked to health care professionals, nutritionists, doctors and beautiful, thin people, and compiled this list of ways guaranteed to help you drop weight and keep it off for long enough to show off in a very, very small bathing suit.

1) Stop eating. It is a well known fact that to lose weight you have to eat fewer calories than you burn, which for most people means eating less. Unfortunately, eating "less" may help you lose weight, but the amount of weight you lose depends on how many calories less you eat, so if you're only cutting back a little bit you'll lose, maybe a pound or two. If you want to lose enough weight that it really shows, you need to drastically reduce your caloric intake, hopefully to zero. This means no eating, and no drinking anything with calories (water is ok!) or otherwise ingesting energy, by chewing gum or photosynthesizing or things of that sort. People will tell you it burns more calories to eat celery than you get from eating it, but that's still calories you're eating. I recommend pretending to eat celery, which burns the calories but saves you from taking them in. Remember, once your body begins starving, it'll turn to your fat reserves and you'll be dropping weight in no time. Remember, eating and then throwing up doesn't count, because your body is selfishly absorbing calories the whole time, and you can't get rid of it all that way!

2) Cut off your left arm. Or it you're left handed, your right arm. An arm weighs a number of pounds, and that's just useless weight, keeping you from looking your best at double digit poundage. Some may argue that a leg weighs more than an arm, but it's hard to walk around without two legs, while having only one arm is hardly a problem in most situations. Moreover, haven't you ever said you'd give your left arm to be as thin as some celebrity/model?

3) Inhale lots of helium. A large portion of the air you breathe is completely useless nitrogen, and you're bringing a lot of it into your body every day. Imagine if you could reduce the weight of that 70 or so percent of your weight to less than a third of what you're currently breathing? The trick is to stop breathing in nitrogen and switch to helium. Helium is a noble gas, so you don't have to worry about any of the dangerous reactions, and it can also make your voice sound funny, so there's a double bonus to making the switch. So reduce the weight you get from breathing, and start taking in light helium, instead of that heavy old nitrogen that's weighing you down.

4) Shock yourself with electricity. Another way to burn more calories (in addition to communism left) is to exercise. The problem with this for most people is that exercise involves unpleasant things such as lifting heavy things or running from place to place. The solution to this is to get the benefits for exercise without voluntarily doing anything at all. Every time you're shocked with electricity you muscles contract, without you having to do anything, burning calories. You can do this while you sleep (assuming you can sleep through incredible amounts of pain) or while doing other activities that aren't made difficult by uncontrollable jerking of your body and short periods of intense pain.

5) Eat healthy and exercise, in the past. One of the best ways to lose weight is to have exercised and eaten healthy in the past. It's too late to start now if you want to get thin in time to get to the beach, but if you had started working out and eating less fat way back in the middle of the winter, you'd be fit and trim. The obvious solution is to build some sort of time machine and go back and convince yourself to start working out. Remember, healthy eating and exercise is the best way to stay healthy, according to 9 out of 10 doctors. The 10th doctor recommends prayer.

This publication, including its financial backers and other supporters, are in no way legally responsible for any physical harm or loss of life that may occur due to following advice from this list, and it is recommended that you discuss any plan to lose excessive amounts of weight with your Doctor. If you have read, touched, or in any way experienced any part of this paragraph, you have waived your right to sue us. But please don't try, because juries tend to ignore non-liability clauses like this one, and give you a hefty cash pay out.

Ways to Please Your Man

1. Hoard free food from conferences for him
2. Introduce him to your younger sister who models for Playboy
3. Switch to Linux for your operating system
4. Learn to love video games almost as much as you love him
5. Wear that sexy "I Feel Lucky" Google T-shirt for those special occasions
6. Farm gold for him on World of Warcraft
7. Agree that direct sunlight only gives you cancer
8. Give him all your free stuff from career fair
9. Make him a delicious meal of ramen, or something else more appetizing than CDS dinner
10. Let him use some of your declining balance
11. Introduce him to one of the hot firefighters on Holliston
12. Fill out his drop card for him
13. Two words: 95 groupies!
14. Buy him Weird Al's new CD and wrap it with duct tape
15. Break into his room, wrap yourself in duct tape, and wait for him to return home
16. Break into his room, wrap his roommate in duct tape, and give him some blue books for his exams
17. Give him pointers on how to do his laundry
18. Play Mortal Kombat in bed (either literally or figuratively)
19. Four words: New Super Mario Brothers!
20. Give him a boot to the head
21. Combine numbers 18 and 20
22. Do his laundry (and skip number 17)
23. Don't rush while he's gaming—always let him get to a safe spot
24. Complain that this week's set is "long and hard"—and then give him a wink

Q: Dear Cosmo,
I'm writing to you with a dire emergency: I can't find any guys to date! Like, even though the ratio at Caltech is "in my favor," or whatever, looking for a boyfriend here is like deep sea fishing—the ones that you finally catch look really weird, and you just want to throw them back.

So, I'm asking for your advice. I need to find the man of my dreams. Actually, I just need to find a quick boyfriend. Sooner is better.

-- Desperate Tech Girl

A: Dear Desperate,
The answer to your prayers is much closer than you actually think. Hunky, steamy, HOT men are just around the corner, waiting to rescue you. What am I talking about? HELLOOOOO! There is a fire-station on Holliston just busting with fire-fighters you can date. Seriously, why didn't you think of this sooner? Because I just told you right now! Here's why you should date them: 1) they are older. Older men are hot. 2) they are seasoned. Seasoned men are hot. 3) they are here to rescue you. Rescues are hot and sometimes end in romantic relationships. This is what you should do: go to the fire-station on Holliston and pretend to pass out. When they try to do CPR on you, start making out with them. They'll like it. Good luck!

-- Cosmo

Dear Cosmo by Cindy Ko. Tips for "please your man" by Tech staff.

Topless Man of the Month:
Jon Malmaud
It’s come to my attention over the few years I’ve been here that a large proportion of the upperclassmen don’t really give a shit about stuff that happens here anymore. Judging from the way I’ve been on mailing lists I’m on and individual conversations I’ve held over the years, it seems that many of the older Techers have stopped being so adamant about various issues. They become more apathetic than anything else because they stop believing that they can change anything, especially by speaking.

Instead, many complain. They complain, but they don’t explain. The freshmen of Dabney House, for example, were understandably outraged by the inflated charges from P-Plant for the fixing of the mod gates. They started expressing it over the Dabney email list until Mo graciously rose to the challenge of summarizing the extent to which Dabney as a House was mistreated last year in the Great Censorship Debacle of 2004-2005. Thus the somewhat amusing, still hopeful rantings of a class that thankfully has not yet been completely castrated by our lovely administration ended.

If other examples exist: most notably, Avery. I speak not of the House, but of the honor field can certainly take a little phallic decoration.

Also, the Fleming flag is not irreplaceable. It’s a synthetic fiber eyesore and there’s no real way that tapping the letters A and G to it could do any harm. I don’t know why they care about that bell, but somebody should switch it with a fake and see if they notice. Maybe someone has already done so… good luck sleeping at night now Fleming!

The IHC states that they only have jurisdiction over acts between houses, making the rule unenforceable against individuals. Next year I could fill the cannon with coin collector bio-goo and use it to borkake all the Flemings, the flag, and the bell, in the middle of dinner, and the IHC couldn’t do a damn thing.

Certainly the CRC would hang anyone committing such an act a serious administrative smack down, so why have an IHC rule? If Rickets, as a house, innocently covered the cannon in pink chiffon and rhinestones, what could the IHC do, take away our picks?

If other examples exist: most notably, Avery. I speak not of the House, but of the honor
The End of Year
BY: TONY FALK

The end of the school year is finally here, we’re all another year older, another humbling reminder we need more education (and closer to our degrees, or finally there), and except for the vast majority of people who will do something academic, everyone is ready for some well earned rest and relaxation over summer vacation. That means it’s time for my semi-annual column clearing the air between Caltech and its student population, getting rid of any “but” that people may have with the school, and in general letting everyone move on to their summers without any lingering bad feelings.

One of the main problems many people have with Caltech is the “ratio,” referring, of course, to the ratio between the number of you, and the number of you that has a girlfriend. Some say the cause of this is not a lack of fair policy towards personal hygiene, or a social life stunted by years of Starcraft and WoW, and not even the result of the fact that children cry when they see the twisted, pale, decipt body of a Tech.

Many people feel like they have problems, and they just get ignored. The best way to think about this is as training for the way the government will treat you in the future.

Right now tuition is being raised, which is essentially raising the price you pay to get a world class education. Could there be a better lesson for raising taxes, which is essentially the price you pay for FREEDOM? Also, you’re losing towing and possibly medical care. You can think of this as preparing you to lose quality public schooling, and possibly medical care.

In addition, unlike the government, Caltech will soon listen to you. They’ll pay attention if you send letters that say something like “I’ve recently become very wealthy, and I’d like to give something back to the school that taught me to persevere, but I’d like my gift to benefit students as well as research.” And surprisingly enough, they’ll probably pay attention if your letter says something like “You know what Caltech? You can go to the hospital and ask for any medicine as a research assistant, and I spend most of that to pay for the medicine I need to help me forget my time at Caltech so I can sleep without waking up screaming from the nightmares.” You’ll never get a cent from me, even if you try to pry it from my cold, dead hands.” Some don’t despair if it feels like those in charge aren’t paying you any attention, just wait until you graduate, and they’ll listen at all you want.

There are other problems at Caltech, such as terrible food, a stunted social interaction with the outside world, a lack of respect for athletics, low energy dryers and inadequate funding for Caltech’s world class RPS club. Rather than address these problems (which would require tens of minutes of more thinking), I’m going to start Jackie’s Trust. Don’t be a wuss. Seriously.

A final issue many people have with Caltech is the soul crushing workload that defiles the scorched hell that is Caltech existence. But it is really so bad? I could make some argument about how you’re being educated to be the best at what you do. Or I could use a similar analogy to the one in my earlier paragraph on the ratio, explaining how now you’ll ever do again will be as difficult and million dollar graduate wolves will be destroyed by your graduation. Or I could even say that you’re not really working hard, not when compared to the real heroes, the men and women of America’s armed forces, working to protect us each and every day.

However, I’m not going to say any of that, because Caltech’s workload sucks. But on the bright side, once you graduate, or even if you drop out, everyone who attends this Institutes hallowed halls gets unlimited smug snickers at anyone who mentions their easy/grade-inflated college. And that’s a gift that will last a lifetime.

(footnotes)
1 In this case “semi” means “not actually.” As in, this isn’t a column I write semi-annually, so much as one I write “sort of” annually, which in turn means this is probably the only time I’ll write it.
2 This will of course be translated to look like this “I want to give Caltech money. Money money money. $5555 $5555 $5555. Caltech should use this money ($55) for whatever it wants.
3 Translation for administrators: “I’m not yet ready to give Caltech money. It will probably be ready next week, provided you call me and send me some letters asking nicely. Then I will give you money. Money money money.”