Typically students only see the results of the Board of Trustees’ decisions, but this weekend a select few undergraduates had the opportunity to see and meet the Trustees themselves. Six students, selected to represent the Caltech undergraduate population, spoke with Board members on Saturday, Oct 28th in a panel discussion on undergraduate life at Caltech during the Board’s annual retreat. According to Todd Gingrich, ASCIT President, and Craig Montuori, IHC Chair, students on the panel were surprised by the enthusiasm and apparent sincerity of the Trustees, and the opportunity to see and meet the Trustees was “just like the Earth-moon system — the effects are not routine. “This panel discussion is not typical, mainly because the annual Trustee board meeting traditionally takes place in Palm Springs, and students are not (usually) invited to join in the retreat,” wrote Gingrich in an email response. “This year, the meeting was largely held on campus, allowing simpler incorporation of student discussions.”

Students began by briefly introducing the Trustees to the pillars of undergraduate life — the core curriculum, the house system, the honor code, research, pranks, and Duch Day — and then opened the floor to other topics. The discussion centered on four topics in particular: the quality of teaching at Caltech, faculty-student interaction, student morale, and Caltech’s competitiveness against other undergraduate universities in attracting top students. Some of the Trustees are Caltech alumni and have experience related to the issues.

“I was an undergrad here in Page House... and I’m familiar with each of the issues raised by the panel,” said Trustee Mrs. Clara S. Miller (Class of ’84), who is a principal of Regulus International Capital Corporation.

The students on the panel were surprised by the enthusiasm and apparent sincerity of the Trustees.

“I was pleasantly surprised by the extent to which [the Trustees] seemed to care genuinely... about [student] problems and acting to fix them,” ~ Ben Golub, student panelist

Todd Gingrich, ASCIT President, and Craig Montuori, IHC Chair, both sat on the undergraduate panel which discussed student life with the Board of Trustees on Saturday.

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In This Issue

Study Abroad With Hot Danish Girls

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Changes Proposed to Caltech Student Health Care Plan

BY: SONIA TIKOO

Due to rising health insurance costs, university administrators are exploring cost-cutting changes for the Caltech Student Health Plan.

For the past ten years, the annual premium the university must pay for has increased from $825 to $1815, the current figure for the 2006-07 academic year. Last year, the Faculty Board Health Committee made recommendations that have already led to Caltech’s decision to continue mandatory participation in its health care program. Another action that the Institute has taken is to detach insurance premium costs from the tuition costs, to which they were previously coupled. Continuing Caltech students incurred no additional costs as a result of this, but for the current freshmen, the health insurance premium was added to the mandatory student fees.

Despite these modifications, financial issues still demand more action be taken to reduce the cost of the health insurance premium. This will help reduce costs for the Institute, because it continues to pay for the premium for all the continuing undergraduates and all graduate students, and financial aid covers the student fees (which currently include the premium) for incoming undergraduate students who are eligible for financial aid. Reducing the premium impacts all incoming undergraduates and their parents, because it will reduce the amount of student fees for them.

Talk of changes has led to fervor, however, especially with members of the graduate student body, who are typically no longer covered by parental health insurance policies. The main concern is that if improper actions are taken,...
**NEWS**

OCTOBER 30, 2006

**The Outside World**

**BY: DANIEL ROWLANDS**

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Forest Fires Rage Across in Southern California

One of the most wildfire-ridden times started in Riverside County, CA, near Palm Springs. Thursday morning has begun burning, killing four firefighters. The fire is suspected to be a case of arson-initiated forest fires in the area over the last three months.

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**New Space Weather Monitoring Satellite Launched**

On Wednesday NASA launched its Solar-Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO) mission to study space weather. The pairing of satellites will allow for three-dimensional views of the sun and better studies of how disturbances from it impact the Earth. The STEREO mission is expected to provide space weather alerts for those operating on or near the Earth's surface, preventing space weather-related blackouts and protect astronauts.


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Scorsese's New Film A Departure from Past Failures

BY HARRISON STEIN

In each of the last three decades of the 20th century, legendary filmmaker Martin Scorsese directed gritty, witty dramas that changed the way movies were made. Taxi Driver, Raging Bull and Goodfellas were revolutionary because they contained acting performances never before seen in movies. Scorsese directed gritty, witty dramas. For one, the story is exalted class of classic action

As Colin Sullivan, a mobster who infiltrates the police and DiCaprio as Bill Costello, an undercover officer masquerading as a mob enforcer. Sheen, Wahlberg and Baldwin have secondary, but intriguing roles in the police force. The film begins with an expert portrayal of Bill and Co lin's parallel paths towards the police force. Once they graduate, both are callously interro gated, and it's at this point that the characters' courses permanently diverge, only to be interextricably linked by a chain of tragedy and bloodshed.

Sullivan passes the test with flying colors, demonstrating the keenness and cunning needed to ultimately turn on the outfit he promised to protect. In the meantime, Costigan grows hostile and defensive showing that, while ill-equipped to handle the rigors of detective work, he is perfectly suited to permeate the inner-workings of Frank's front.

Sullivan begins dating a beautiful doctor (Vera Farmig ton) who just so happens to be Costigan's court-appointed shrink. Expected fireworks arise in the complicated love triangle and while the psychia trist character is largely ex traneous, she does add a nice little nico to the plot that is neatly tied-up at the end.

As Costigan and Sullivan burrow deeper and deeper into their respective organizations, they both find it necessary, yet impossible to extricate them selves from their inauspicious situations. What follows is a grim cat-and-mouse game with a few twists and a lot of outcomes that feel predestined.

Scorsese proves he is finally back in form, as The Departed is his most impressive film in over fifteen years. Back in the day, Scorsese formed an enduring rapport with Robert DeNiro as the two were at their pinnacle when working together.

DeNiro has long since re tired from fine cinema with recent stink bombs like Godsend and Hide and Seek, but Scorsese has found his new leading man in Leo DiCaprio. Of the main stars, DiCaprio is most comfortable because of his newfound sympathy with the director. His character is the most complex as he plays everything very close to the vest, never letting the emotions get the best of him until an explosion of passion near the end. Duvall, a supreme disappointment since his star turn in Good Will Hunting, is considerably less impressive, but at the same time, his straight laced, cold-hearted character is one-dimensional, leaving little room for Damon to showcase his range. More often than not, Damon hits the right notes and by the end, the audience truly despises his louse of a charac ter.

Jack Nicholson is predictably fantastic, as the creepy but articulate mob boss is the perfect role to bring Jack out of his late-life crisis. Nicholson delivers scathing monologues, including the defining speech of the movie where he proclaims that cops and villains are no different when faced with the barrel of a gun. While we learn to loathe the slimy, manipulative Sullivan, Nicholson's Frank remains a sympathetic character. When he's not showing his homicidal tendencies, Frank is the type of guy we would in vite over for football on Sun days.

Despite being the only name on the ledger without instant name recognition, screenwriter William Monahan manages to stand out for the right reasons, as the script is an absolute revelation. Despite being a depressing and gritty crime drama, The Departed is full of fresh one-liners and plenty of hearty dialogue. The conversations between Nicholson and DiCaprio have the perfect tone and the Bald win and Wahlberg's characters are infinitely enlightened by the presence of witty, caustic dialogue. Not since Pulp Fiction has a crime drama been blessed with such a coherent script.

Unfortunately, there are a number of factors that keep The Departed from joining the esteemed class of classic action dramas. For one, the story is all over the place and the ending is a bit too much. A lot of the subplots are pretty extraneous and a number of Sullivan and Costigan's actions are not particularly realistic or convincing. While the pacing of the film is nearly perfect once the first hour has passed, there are moments early on where the film notice ably drags. There were even a few moments where I felt the despicable urge to rest my eyes in the theater.

Nonetheless, the yays far outweigh the nays in this excellent picture. The film is beautifully shot on-location in Boston and Scorsese demonstrates his unparalleled creativity with a number of excellent scenes. Most notable is a shot of Jack Nicholson gleefully enjoying his opera while slightly intoxicated. Scorsese uses a full red backdrop to elucidate the despicable urge to rest my eyes in the theater. Although the yays far outweigh the nays in this excellent picture, the film is beautifully shot on-location in Boston and Scorsese demonstrates his unparalleled creativity with a number of excellent scenes. Most notable is a shot of Jack Nicholson gleefully enjoying his opera while slightly intoxicated. Scorsese uses a full red backdrop to elucidate the evil in Frank's character. It remains to be seen whether Martin's effort is rewarded with a gold statuette (or two), but it's clear that no matter what happens in March Scorsese and Nicholson, Da mon and DiCaprio have made a film worth remembering, even after the audience has departed the theater.

Matt Damon and Leonardo DiCaprio star in The Departed.

Learn to Fly!
Caltech/JPL Aero Club
For more information go to: http://aacit.caltech.edu or email club VP and instructor Joe Areeda

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Enjoy The Greatest Happy Hours in the Area. All Well Drinks, Beer & wine, Monday to Friday 11am-7pm only $1.99

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Always 20% off for all Caltech students, staff, faculty
This week, The Tech presents the first of a four-part series that highlights the opportunities of the study abroad program. Students may contact Lauren Stolper, the director of Caltech’s study abroad program, for more details.

BY: LAUREN STOLPER

Study abroad started in the winter of 1999 when four intrepid seniors made their way to cold and wet Cambridge, England to spend a term at Cambridge University. Their response to study abroad was so enthusiastic that over the last five years the Cambridge program has tripled in size and we have added three new programs involving four universities: Copenhagen University (KU), the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), University College London (UCL), and the most recent program in its second year, Edinburgh University. The Copenhagen Scholars Program is a study abroad program in which Caltech students travel in small groups to Copenhagen, Denmark at Copenhagen University (KU) or Kobenhavns Universitet) in economics, biology, computer science, mathematics, the biological sciences or the physical sciences, or study at the Danish Technical University (DTU) for engineering or the applied physical sciences. Students attend during the junior or senior year for the fall semester. Two to five spaces are available each fall.

The University of Copenhagen (KU) is located in the heart of the city of Copenhagen while the Danish Technical University (DTU) is located about 10 miles north of Copenhagen in the town of Lyngby. KU is the oldest university in Denmark and was founded in 1479. DTU is comparatively younger and was founded in 1829. KU has 34,000 students and 65 departments in six faculties: Health Sciences, Humanities, Law, Science, Social Sciences and Theology. The Faculties are located across in three campus areas. DTU has 15 academic departments in the applied and physical sciences and 6000 students. In the 1960’s DTU moved to its new Lyngby campus. All upper level courses are or can be taught in English at both KU and DTU.

Caltech students enjoy living in this hip city which is located on several islands interconnected by bridges-in fact much of the country of Denmark is on a series of large islands. The city has an ultra modern driverless metro system. It is a city for cyclists and pedestrians and in fact started the now common practice of pedestrianizing the city center so that no traffic flows through certain parts of the city center. There are ample opportunities for nightlife, cultural activities, sailing and the hiking or walking.

The Danes are friendly and almost everyone speaks English fluently.

T echers Share Experiences

STEVE PAIK ’03
PHYSICS KU

Copenhagen is a dense, sprawling metropolis that never fails to offer something in the way of excitement. There are countless, museums, restaurants, shops, cafes, bars and other attractions jam-packed into a quaint, little city designed around pretty canals and harbors.

With a bus pass or a bike you can easily get almost anywhere in the city, and day trips by train to most of Denmark and Sweden can be done without advance notice. I find the opportunities to travel and to study the vestiges of a country whose absolute monarch once controlled all of Scandinavia to be breathtaking.

I believe it is that combination of rich history and modern lifestyle that makes Denmark a great change of pace from humid California.

The academics here, especially in the physical sciences, are very good. The level of enthusiasm I see from my classmates is surprising and it just adds to the enjoyment of going to lectures and doing homework.

It was quite a shock to develop a nice rapport with my professors. Since the atmosphere between students and teachers is so informal here,

I always call them by their first names, and there are usually actually welcome to drop by their offices any day of the week. The workload can be as intense as Caltech if you choose to make it so.

That is the usual style here is to assign optional problems that you can present the solutions to the blackboard in front of the class once a day a week. The norm is also to have oral final exams, which means you have to give a mini-lecture from a topic on a syllabus from memory.

Consequently, I think I’ve done more reading for courses here than I normally did back in Caltech. There are lots of foreign students (especially from European countries) in my classes and it’s great to have such diversity. The Danish science students I know are extremely courteous. In general, most Danes I live near or see on a daily basis are some of the nicest people I’ve ever met.

The views from the eastern coastline are very picturesque in early autumn, and the weather during August and September were just fantastic in Copenhagen.

But around this time of year it tends to get dark and rainy most days. I don’t recommend Denmark if you can’t live without the sun for extended periods, or if you really dislike riding buses or taking the subway all day.

Even though the weather can prevent a lot of outdoor activity, there are still many things to do indoors, like going to the cinema, or to a pub. Just ask a friend if you come here.

One of the biggest differences between university life here and back at Tech is that KU is integrated into the city. Therefore, there is no sky walk or going to another faculty might require a short commute.

For example, the humanities department is here on Amager (where I live) and the physical science buildings are about a half hour north by bus. Sometimes it is an interesting experience trekking to school and passing by so many businesses, parks, homes, etc. I don’t always get the impression that this school, but more like work.

Life here is different in many ways. The food is one example.

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The city-wide campus is another. The most prominent of course are the people. As a result of talking to many Danish friends I can now say that I understand how people in Europe perceive America, and I’ve learned to look at things differently. It is always good to get another perspective.

Continued on page 5

Finance Experiment Continues

The table to the right summarizes performance in the second round of the financial-markets experiment. This round took place on October 24. There were 66 investors and 32 managers who participated, all of them Caltech students. The fund managers are identified by names of minerals. The DowTech is a fixed portfolio of assets and cash, and provides the measure of return if investors are members of the portfolio and hold on to it. There were two funds that were not actively trading in this round. Allamite, which is marked with (P) and is expected to trade in the next round, and Bastite, which is marked with (PP) and is not expected to trade in the next round. Students interested in more details or who want to participate in the experiment as an investor may see the CLEF webpage at http://clef.caltech.edu/exp/dp/index.html

The photo of Denmark shows the busy streets and the urban landscape.

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Continued on page 5

# Risky* = (value of final holdings of risky assets)/(value of final portfolio)*100, portfolio values at trading prices, not at return levels

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* Returns = (final value portfolio - initial value portfolio)/(initial value portfolio)
** Volume = initial value portfolio/total value of all portfolios)*100
Residual = final value portfolio - manager’s fee
Risk = (value of final holdings of risky assets)/(value of final portfolio)*100, portfolio values at trading prices, not at return levels
Students Describe Experiences in Denmark

Continued from page 4

WEI HUANG ’07 MECH, ENGINEERING, DTU

To those who want a great experience traveling abroad and getting to learn another language, then studying abroad in Copenhagen offers a great opportunity. This is because Denmark’s first language is Danish and second language is English.

Therefore, all the signs on the streets and newspapers are in Danish. So you can definitely get an adventure out of wandering around the city with/without a map. On the other hand, if you are truly stuck and need help, then you can just ask any Danish people on the street; they are generally very friendly and can respond in perfect English. Sometimes, if you look stuck and lost, they will voluntarily come and help you out.

Copenhagen itself is the biggest city in Denmark. And since the Danish people love design, you see great design everywhere, from fashion to architecture. The fashion here is slightly different than the States. People here generally dress pretty well. Danish people are generally very pretty and slim.

As for architecture, besides preserving the old buildings, modern buildings can also be seen by the waterfront. These modern buildings are not just new, but they are extremely pretty, for example, the Black Diamond, which is a building next to the waterfront with the building tilt 7 degrees toward the water.

It is made out of glass and black granite. The water will reflect the sunshine on the side of the building, causing it to shine. Although many buildings might look old on the outside, the interior design of these buildings is extremely modern.

Copenhagen is located just across the water from Sweden. One can often just take a day trip to Stockholm, Sweden, or other Danish islands. Travel by flight from Copenhagen to other European cities is very convenient. The airport is just located right outside of the city, and can be reached train. Easily offers cheap fares to many European cities, one just need to book around a month earlier. Even if you don’t, it would still be pretty cheap. Also, one can often city hop by buying inter-city train tickets. It is very convenient.

Also, studying abroad offers you a chance to meet other international students, and you can learn many cultural things directly from them. They are generally laid-back and fun to hang out with. The groceries here are high quality; they are all organic foods.

Copenhagen’s canal provides a convenient mode of transportation.

The Career Center presents another profile of an alumnus from Caltech.

Alexei received a bachelor’s degree in Physics from Novosibirsk State University in Russia in 1997. Following a brief exchange program at Ecole Polytechnique in Palaiseau, France, he came to Caltech in 1998 to pursue a PhD in experimental High Energy Physics. Alexei’s work on the BABAR experiment at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center involved operation, event reconstruction algorithms, and data analysis. After graduating in 2006, he joined Sussexham International Group, LLP (SIG) as a Quantitative Associate working on the Statistical Arbitrage desk.

Major Responsibilities: Alexei’s responsibilities involve support, analysis, and development of automated trading strategies with a focus on high-frequency trading.

The Career: “I developed an interest in finance while at Caltech through interactions with alumni who started working in quantitative finance after graduation and after taking a basic course in options theory taught by Professor Peter Bossaerts. Later on I came to appreciate better the important role that technology and quantitative methods play in modern finance, and the strong focus on technology, and its Quantitative Research department is among the best in the finance industry. The company is very successful and is growing rapidly; it has the size to be a major player in the markets, but at the same time very nimble and entrepreneurial. I really like the culture which in some ways is similar to Caltech. SIG’s prominence in the industry is far larger than its size might suggest.”

Preparation: “Working in the field of High Energy Physics gave me an opportunity to develop skills in data analysis and software development that are directly applicable in modern quantitative finance. Carrying out research at the forefront of modern science requires a good deal of dedication, focus, and is often done collaboratively. All these skills will come to serve you well if you decide to work in the industry.”

Advice: “Because of the competitive nature of modern financial companies have an ever increasing focus on technology and quantitative sophistica-

Write for The Tech

If you are interested in working for The Tech, feel free to attend our weekly meetings on Mondays and Fridays from noon to 1PM at the Broad Cafe.

If we print your material, we will pay you up to the amounts listed below (at our discretion). Email submissions to tech@caltech.edu.

Upcoming Events

UMONDAY, OCT. 30, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
J P Morgan: Avery Library
Derivatives Research Conference Room
Tuesday, Oct. 31, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
M. K. Consulting: Brennen Conference Room
Wednesday, Nov. 1, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Northrop Grumman: Brennen Conference Room
Thursday, Nov. 2, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Space National: Brennen Conference Room
Thursday, Nov. 2, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Google (ENGK): Avery Library

TUTORS WANTED


TEACHING TIP: #9

Superheroes don’t always wear capes.

Once you complete your bachelor’s degree: Arizona University offers 20+ opportunities at 7 convenient Southern California locations for you to become a teacher: elementary, middle or high school. And, because AZU is one of only five institutions accredited in the state to grant candidate certification, you receive state-wide preparation recognized by all 50 states. For information on any of the above programs, and information on pursuing a degree in education, call us at 1-310-255-8277 or email us at admissions@azu.edu. To schedule a personal appointment or apply for an ongoing term, visit www.edu/azunativediv/isite.php.

Flexible hours. Car needed. Long-term positions. Caltech students get credentialed teacher rates: $20.50 - $22.00/hour. To apply visit: www.academicadvantage.com/jobs

This woman represented Denmark at the 2005 Miss Universe contest.
Career Corner

Getting Ready for Graduate School

Students interested in applying to graduate school can take a quick look at the Graduate School Checklist.

Students can attend the Career Center’s Graduate School Workshop for information on the procedures and tips to present a strong application. When: October 31, 2006 from Noon to 1:30pm. Where: Winnett Lounge (Please note: due to limited space, students who wish to attend must RSVP to career@caltech.edu.)

At the workshop, the Career Center will have two professors and several grad students who will discuss the art of applying to grad school – what they look for in applicants, what strategies work and which ones don’t.

Here are some things students should think about when it comes to graduate school.

1) Is graduate school for you? Should you apply now or later? (Avoiding the "real world" is probably not the best reason.)
2) How do you choose a graduate school? (Do rankings really matter?)
3) How can you finance your graduate education? (Application deadlines are here!)
4) What is required in the application? (Have you asked professors for letters of recommendation? Have you written your personal statement?)
5) When do you need to start applying? (Some schools begin in December, some in January and later, find out now!)
6) What do selection committees look for in grad school candidates?
7) What kinds of questions might you be asked in grad school interviews?

These are just a few questions to get students started. The Career Center provides resources at its webpage at http://www.career.caltech.edu/resources/grad.shtml.

This workshop gives fundamental information for anyone considering grad school. However, if the number one question in a student’s mind is, “Should I apply or not?” then the student consider visiting the Career Development Center.

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Alemi began his research in the year of his senior year of Physocs 11, which required two rounds of problems as part of its class selection. In fact, Alemi pushed that his research should be more of a plug for the Phys 11 class than a trophy of personal achievement. “Phys 11 rocks. It’s what got me into this,” said Alemi.

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We know the Honor Code today by the phrase, “No one shall take unfair advantage of a member of the Caltech community.” It sounds like a mouthful, but it was adopted from the ivory towers of Caltech’s past. However, that phrase did not start this discussion. Although it entered the ASCIT Bylaws in 1980, the phrase existed in 1972 and various ASCIT publications seemed to put unfair advantage concepts in the ex’s. Before that, Caltech simply had a honor system with no real axiom. The 1970-’71 little edit to the old statement was, once again, because of the main benefits of the Honor System is a vast freedom from rules, and the possibility to do something of your own free will. Just respect the rights of others and expect them to respect yours.

So how long has Caltech had an honor system? According to early records, the honor system was established at Throop Polytechnic Institute in 1910. In 1913, the school was renamed the Throop College of Technology, and the Associated Students of Caltech, Inc. was founded. These excerpts from a SURF puzzle from www.websudoku.com reveal that the honor system was still in place in 1921, and that the Associated Students of Caltech, Inc. was still active in the 1930s.

The Board of Control was given the authority to “benefit the undergraduates of Caltech, in an act of personal relationships became part of the honor system. Courtesy towards others, pranks, and initiations all became part of the honor system in the 70’s, setting the stage for the catch-all phrase of “unfair advantage” to enter the ASCIT Bylaws in 1980. Today, the honor system applies to every aspect of behavior on the Caltech campus. Most simply, this means not cheating on exams and not stealing from others, but that is a far too narrow view. The honor system means we can pull pranks as long as we leave a note, we can have wild initiations as long as the participants feel comfortable, we can take food and drinks from the kitchen at our leisure as long as we don’t bottle it and store it away, and we can trust our student leaders to work in the best interest of the student body, for it would be taking unfair advantage of our positions if we did not.

About ASCIT Dues

Without really thinking about it, anyone who is reading this article paid their ASCIT dues this term. If you are a shareholder in this Corporation, you are a member of the ASCIT and should read this article. If you are a non-shareholder, you may stop reading now, because you don’t have a subscription to this newsletter.

Besides a subscription to this illustrious publication, paying your ASCIT dues earns you a number of different privileges. With free donuts, access to DVD’s, discounted ticket to ASCIT Formal, usage of the Student Union Room, a little puzzle, and a Totem, ASCIT dues are much like House Dues: they pay for services that you can take advantage of. I know what you’re thinking – there’s no way you get $60 worth out of those things and unless you eat a whole lot of donuts, you’re probably right. But in my opinion, worrying about the value you get back is the right way to think about ASCIT dues or House dues. When you think of paying tuition, you probably make the calculation of how much money you should spend in that dinner really cost $11? Is a Caltech degree worth that much? Caltech is providing you a service and you’re the consumer; that’s not the case with ASCIT. The Associated Students of Caltech, Inc. is a corporation whose mission is to benefit the undergraduates of Caltech, and you are a shareholder in this Corporation, and have thus pledged $60 a year toward that mission, which is not to put each member eke out a benefit, but is to serve the needs of a community of 950. Paying your ASCIT dues is a fundamentally selfless action, and it should not be done with the selfish thought of profiting from the corporation.

This selfless spirit is likely why ASCIT is categorized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation by the IRS. This is the same designation reserved for charities like the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, or the United Way. When you pay $60 in ASCIT Dues, you are paying in for your own future, that is the only way helping others, which is the philosophy of the Honor Code. If you do not know that you don’t feel like you get $60 of benefit back from the dues you pay, you can write off the difference on your 1040, Schedule A. But what about the talk of raising ASCIT dues? This topic has come up because dues haven’t been raised in almost two decades. It’s not something new which occurred in 1984, while Caltech tuition was at $4000 dollars. That’s not the case. What has happened is that the United Way has more than doubled. Oddly enough, it is Caltech facing budget crises while ASCIT has done just fine with its smaller income. In fact, ASCIT supports more clubs now than it ever did before and is still printing a weekly newspaper, a yearly student handbook, and an annual yearbook. It may be difficult to imagine what ASCIT would do with more money, but a brief tour through ASCIT history reveals some interesting things.

Many years ago, ASCIT supported a large fraction of the athletic program at Caltech. In 1949 this accounted for more than half of the ASCIT budget. Back then, the students had a lot of say in which varsity sports teams Caltech had and what sorts of sports facilities were maintained. Nowadays, this is completely controlled and paid for by the Institute, but as an artifact of the past, ASCIT still subsidizes athletic awards and letterman jackets.

Continued next week

Letters to the Editor

I’d like to point out that nearly everything written on the front page of the October 16th Tech by Daniel Rowlands about the DVD library system is wrong.

First, the computer system was developed by Jon Dama, Dylan Simon, and Rob Christie, all of class of 2003. Graham and Ryan Youkum took care of the DVDs for more recent years, but did no development or setup work on the software, Donut, or the client computer.

I did not write the software for the DVD checkout client. That program, as part of the Donut DVD system, was written primarily by Dylan Simon. All I did change were some settings to accommodate a new network address for the client computer, a relatively trivial task.

Since the work necessary “to prepare the new check-out computer” took me only a few hours to do, it seems unlikely that it was the primary reason the DVD library was not opened all of last year. Perhaps Chris Watson didn’t know who the people who wrote the software, or the people now in charge of taking care of it? I was only asked about it by IHC chair Craig Montouri at the beginning of the summer.

In any case, it’s important that Jon, Dylan, and Rob’s work be credited. Between them they designed and implemented Donut and the DVD system, a remarkable achievement.

-Evan Murphy

Our sport, waterpolo, has been described as “all-star wrestling and championship basketball... in eight feet of water.” Mark Eichenlaub has referred to our team in a recent Daily Caltech article as “rare and elusive beast,” before proceeding to speculate randomly about us and confuse our season last year with the one before it. The BHC体系 has given us our space, but we have never been allowed to have an interhouse because the thinks people who have never played it before would drown. We are one of the few vacationer’s water polo teams and it appears we are all but lost to obscurity and fear in the mind of the average Techer.

But this shouldn’t be so. On several occasions we have been seen showing our support (among other things) to the entire gym at se lection of women’s volleyball games. Like many other sports at Caltech, we have never been强悍 and like other sports we play better when we have an audience of spectators at our games to make lots of noise and cheer us on. So come out this Saturday, November 4th, at 11:00AM to the pool to see the Buffin’ Bearers water polo team take on the CMS Stags in our last home match of the season. Ladies, come for the CMS guys, openers, and guys, come for the bloodshed. You can’t lose. And hopefully, neither should we.

-Exin Fl avansin

Puzzle from www.websudoku.com

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

COMMENTARY

OCTOBER 30, 2006

7

Susquehanna International Group, LLP

www.sig.com

It’s Your Move

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

Caltech Government

By: Tey Jou

These excerpts from a SURF report entitled A History of Undergraduate Self-Governance at Caltech were originally published in The Tech during the fall of 2002.

History of the Honor System

In the coming weeks, the Board of Control will consider an amendment to the Honor Code. The amendment would allow, for the first time, the House will enthrall their fresh- man and sophomore classes. Soon, the freshest frosh will also take on the first term, and in doing so will be fully introduced into the Caltech’s Honor Code. For the frosh, and for the up- perclassmen as well, it might be well to learn a little about what the Honor Code came from. Per- haps a little history will help us understand better about what the Honor Code means, which isn’t as simple as it seems.

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But what about the talk of raising ASCIT dues? This top-
NEWTON'S THREE LAWS OF GRADUATION

Though famous for his seminal work in Mechanics, Isaac Newton's theories on the prediction of a doctoral gradulation formulated while still a grad student at Cambridge remain his most important contribution to academia.

FIRST LAW

"A grad student in procrastination
wants to stay in procrastination
unless an external force is applied to it.

This postulate is known as the "Law of
behavioral inertia" and was originally
discovered experimentally by Gamble
four years before. Newton was born when
he threatened to cut his grad student's
funding. This resulted in a quickening of the student's progress.

Gamble's observations were later perfected by Schachter through
the application of "Weekly Meetings."

Before Gamble's time, it was wrongly
thought that grad students would not only
as long as no work was required of them
and that in the absence of external forces,
they would graduate by themselves.

(From Encyclopædia Britannica)

www.phdcomics.com

NEWTON'S THREE LAWS OF GRADUATION

First published in 1687, Isaac Newton's
"Practise Unnaturalis Principia
Mathematica" is often considered one of
the most important single works in the
history of science. Its Second Law is the
most powerful of the three, allowing
mathematical calculation of the duration of a
doctoral degree.

SECOND LAW

"The age, a, of a doctoral process
is directly proportional to the
flexibility, F, given by the advisor and
inversely proportional to the student's motivation, m.

Mathematically, this postulate translates to:

\[ a = \frac{F}{m} \]

This Law is a quantitative description of the effect of the forces experienced by a grad student. A highly motivated student may still remain in grad school given enough flexibility.

As motivation goes to zero, the duration of the PhD goes to infinity.

www.phdcomics.com