President Interacts With Undergraduates

BY: KIMBERLY HO

President Chameau was also present at the Caltech Pre-Med Association Social Dinner at Tom Mannion’s house. After the activities were over, he and his wife, Dr. Carol Carmichael, stayed after and chatted intimately with students about their college workload and future plans.

President Chameau also took time to visit with the undergraduates in each of Caltech divisions and learn about the programs in each of them. Although he has been here only for a short while, students say that he has been a very pleasant and affable person. An individual wishing to remain anonymous said, “He is a very open person, which is surprising and nice given the amount of authority he holds, I am sure that many Techers hold this view, too.”

President Chameau officially became Caltech’s eighth president on Sept. 1, succeeding Dr. David Baltimore. Previously, Chameau held positions at the Georgia Institute of Technology as provost and as dean of engineering.

Page House Parties Medieval Style

Page House hosted the first Interhouse Party of the year last Saturday night. Senior Ryan Sinnet helped design the floorplan using Google Sketchup, and freshmen in Page House helped construct the party with the encouragement of Work Frosh David Kratz.

Ruddock House Gets New Furniture

Ruddock House recently obtained new furniture, including the couches in their lounge.

By: Radhika Marathe

Ruddock House members have a reason to rejoice this term as Housing provided them with brand new furniture at the beginning of the year. As of August, the Ruddock House Lounge now has six new couches, a $2000 plasma TV, crystal coasters, around ten $200 computer lab chairs and new library tables as well as improved lighting throughout the house.

Ricky Jones, the Ruddock House president, on being asked about the circumstances under which this furniture was requested said, “In response to the renovation of the South Houses, I thought it was reasonable for me to request that Tim Chang [Senior Director of Institute Housing] purchase a few amenities for Ruddock House’s lounge.”

He stated that this request was valid as, “The space was previously underused, and full of very ugly, dilapidated furniture. It did not reflect well on Ruddock House.”

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Blowing off Steam

Students take a break from academics with music. Story on Page 4

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The Outside World

BY: RADHIKA MARATHE

National
NYC bans cell phones in schools
Parents opposing the cell phone ban in New York City Schools have sent innumerable emails to authorities reminding them that the policy is unreasonable, irresponsible and "hints at fascism."

NYC Mayor Bloomberg’s spokesman, Stu Loeser, dismissed the emails as a publicity stunt and stated that no change would be made in the policy. The Mayor argues against the opinions of the parents advocating the use of cell phones for keeping tabs on their kids during long commutes from home to school.

Mayor Bloomberg worries that cell phones are a major cause of distraction in the classroom and encourage students to cheat and waste time in class by playing games and sending text messages. On the more sinister side, he believes that they lead to organized criminal gang activity.

The mayor says schools have many ways to let parents reach their kids during the day if needed. He shrugs at whether it might be more convenient for kids to have phones on their way to and from school, but says the only way to ensure they are not abused during school hours is to ban them outright.

Health
A Chocolate a Day Keeps the Doctor Away!
Chocolate lovers who flunked out of a study on aspirin and heart-attacks based at the John Hopkins University helped researchers discover why a little chocolate a day can cut the risk of a heart attack.

Chang based on asking house members, Jones commented that the Ruds are very happy with the comfortable new furniture and especially the lounge is much more useful now.

Does this mean that other houses will receive new furniture on request as well? “House has not declared that we will accept such demands from other houses” responded Chang.

“I believe that our House has improved, saying he was “not ready to see more professors get killed.” “I have no choice but to stop the teaching in the universities in Baghdad,” he said.

Ashraf Qazi, the U.N. secretary-general’s special representative in Iraq, called the action “a nefarious crime that could dangerously and negatively” affect “progress and development in Iraq, a country long known for its literary and scientific traditions.”

World
Most officials from mass kidnappings in Baghdad freed
Most of the officials kidnapped last Tuesday in a research institute in Baghdad have now been freed, an Iraqi Interior Ministry official stated earlier this week.

About 80 gunmen clad in Iraqi National Police uniforms kidnapped employees from senior managers to cleaners and regular citizens at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Students and Cultural Relations Directorate building in central Baghdad, according to Higher Education Minister Abed Dhi-yab al-Ajili.

No one was killed or tortured. However, the Iraqi interior minister ordered the searches and interrogations of several high-ranking police officers over their handling of security in the area.

Al-Ajili said he was closing universities until security improves, saying he was “not ready to see more professors get killed.” “I have no choice but to stop the teaching in the universities in Baghdad,” he said.

Avery last year and installed the piano room card swipe in the "Classroom." said Chang.

Our house group takes good care of the "Classroom." said Chang.

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Students learn in the rich 3-D environments provided by "Second Life."

Ruddock House Gets New Furniture from Housing

Continued from Page 1
our house during formal diners or other official events. House members Zack Ramadan and Derek Goto worked with Housing over the summer to select appropriate furniture, and it arrived at the beginning of Rotation.

A list was submitted to Chang based on asking house members for furniture preferences and Housing basically provided the items requested. Speaking on behalf of his house, Jones commented that the Ruds are very happy with the comfortable new furniture and especially the lounge is much more useful now.

Does this mean that other houses will receive new furniture on request as well? “House has not declared that we will accept such demands from other houses” responded Chang.

“Housing provided Ruddock with some new amenities for the lounge and computer room as a thank you for working with us...in providing a safe and clean environment in Ruddock House.”

-Timothy Chang, Housing Director

House members, Jones commented that the Ruds are very happy with the comfortable new furniture and especially the Lounge is much more useful now.

Does this mean that other Houses will receive new furniture on request as well? “Housing has not declared that we will accept such demands from other houses” responded Chang.

“Housing provided Ruddock with some new amenities for the lounge and computer room as a thank you for working with us over the course of the year in providing a safe and clean environment in Ruddock House as well as not having much damage.”

Chang also spoke about similar things been done for other Houses. Housing has “installed courtyard lights and the piano room card swipe in Avery last year and installed an electric awning for the Lloyd deck two years ago.” He stated that Housing is currently “working with Lloyd again to look at their shed and how we can improve that space for students.”

Change indicated that Housing seems to have found an effective way of encouraging Houses to take good care of their furniture in this recently implemented reward system. “All houses are welcome to make proposals for items and we will consider them. All we ask in return is that the houses respond to our requests to keep the house clean and safe and not cause damage in the house,” said Chang.

Tech Educators explore Virtual Reality
More than 80 schools and educational organizations in NYC are looking at ways in which the virtual world may be incorporated into learning.

In this particular interactive package called “Second Life,” virtual residents or avatars, cartoonish-looking characters controlled via keyboard and mouse, do anything from starting up businesses, staging their own concerts, selling real estate and designing fashion lines.

The three-dimensional virtual world makes it possible for students taking a distance course to develop a real sense of community, said Rebecca Nesson, who leads a class jointly offered by Harvard Law School and Harvard Extension School in the world of “Second Life.”

“Students interact with each other and there’s a regular sense of classroom interaction. It feels like a college campus,” she said. It can be distracting to have people “flying” above you while you’re trying to concentrate on a classroom discussion though, said Brien Walton, 40, a master’s degree student in educational technology at Harvard who is taking Nesson’s course.

Since opening in 2003, “Second Life” has experienced strong growth and now has some 1.3 million subscribers.

Source: www.cnn.com
Entrepreneurs Near Caltech Share Advice and Ideals

By: Anna Hiszpanski

With the research-oriented and creative environment that Caltech provides, good ideas are abundant and not too difficult to find. However, often times taking a good idea to the next step, a product, can be a challenge, but the Caltech/MIT Enterprise Forum can help with that process.

According to its website, the aim of the Caltech/MIT Enterprise Forum is to “encourage the growth and success of technology-based entrepreneurial ventures in Southern California.”

Started in 1984, the Caltech/MIT Enterprise Forum began as a joint venture between Caltech’s Industrial Relations Center and Alumni Association and the MIT Alumni Association.

Nick Nichols, the Director of the Caltech Industrial Relations Center, said the Forum’s main service is the monthly programs it offers “for large audiences that examine opportunities for technology based innovation and entrepreneurial business development.”

The most recent program held Saturday, November 11th, was entitled “Entrepreneurship in the Energy Sector—Beyond Transportation,” which focused on the developing technologies and market for clean energy.

“Government tends to hire experts in old technology, and they tend to be adverse, even threatened, to new technology... Our best hope for a sustainable shift in the industry with a cal shift in the technology...”

Similarly structured programs are held each month in a variety of fields. Prior programs this year have included examining entrepreneurial opportunities in nanotechnology, stem cells, semi-autonomous systems, and mobile electronic devices. Among program topics planned for the upcoming year are medical devices, electronic marketplaces, and personal electronic devices (for a full list of programs, visit the Enterprise Forum’s website: www.entform.caltech.edu).

Energy Innovations, a Pasadena-based company, designed this device to harness solar energy.

A startup company run by a Caltech grad student is looking for an undergraduate programmer. Includes a standard contract plus incentives with the potential to be very lucrative. For more information or to express interest, please contact cambrian@caltech.edu

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Techers Pursue Music in Time Off from Math and Science

BY NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

As the Caltech-Occidental Concert Band filled Ramo Auditorium with the powerful chords of Shostakovich’s Waltz #2, no trace of academic-related thoughts lingered with the students. As much as Techers seem to enjoy science and math, they also find it essential to once in a while escape the endless sets and think of something else.

There are many alternatives to studying, ranging from drinking and partying to playing poker, battling each other in video games, simply hanging out, or catching up on much-needed sleep. However, many students are choosing music as their escape and Caltech provides many opportunities for students to pursue musical interests.

With fourteen music courses offered this year, students have a chance to learn about general as well as specific areas of music. The classes cover vocal only and instrumental music, but also the fundamentals of music theory and even ear training.

The bulk of CIT’s music “One thing that I think is really cool is that you can come with no experience at all and be welcome in the Glee Club and actually learn how to get better.” -Yuliya Kuznetsova, Glee Club member

A n o t h e r Solid Week in Finance Experiment

On Tuesday, November 14, portfolio managers and inves tors (32 managers and 67 investors, all of them Caltech students) participated in the fifth round of the financial-markets experiment conducted by CLEF. The table summarizes the funds’ performance in this round; fund managers are identified by names of students, all funds are active. The DowTech is a fixed portfolio of assets and cash, and provides the measure of return if managers participated in the fifth round of the experiment as an investor, or if you would like to see how the managers performed in the previous rounds, see the CLEF webpage at http://clef.caltech.edu/exp/dp/index.html

By participating in one of the many music activities, students can catch a breath away from their work. “I love music and I also love not thinking about math or science for a few hours every week,” said Nathan Donnel lan, member of the Concert Band.

Through its wide variety of courses and performing groups, Caltech offers an outlet accessible to just anybody who wants to participate. Students who do not wish to be a part of the programs can also enjoy the music during the many performances that are given on campus.
Senior Mark Eichenlaub pushes through the pain as freshman Garrett Dynah cheers for his teammates during the NCAA West Regionals on Nov. 11.

BY: MARK EICHENLAUB

Mark’s Track Prattle

Senior Kiyoshi Nakamura and around this green field the race is so long. This race is impossible, but our paths cross and mingle together and I realize that everything has melded into a simple, pure harmony, and my arms stretch across the universe, and I am in love with everything. That is the legacy of my time with everything we cannot accept. A race is our statement that we know where we stand, we will fight, and gasp, and hurt, and if we do it right collapse in the end with mud oozing up our nostrils. Then we shall know that for once, we’ve really done something.

For ours is the kingdom we stepped off the van back at Caltech’s gym and understood there would be no spectacular ending. Nor should there. A chapter of my life was over, but that was immaterial. Everything that had made cross country what it was -- the never-ending struggle against mortality, the quest to forcefully inject some clear meaning in the inscrutable convolutions of life, was mine for as long as I cared to continue striving ahead. This is the way the world ends.

I sat, still and quiet, on a hard wooden bench in the men’s locker room, white light slanting in from high windows, highlighting the dust floating silently above my head. I could hear the shower dripping across the room. My fingers carefully removed the safety pin from my thin synthetic uniform, stacking them in a neat pile beside me. The bare soles of my feet padded softly on the cool gym floor and I watched as the jersey, still damp with sweat, disappeared through a dark, blue hole in the laundry bin, and came to rest, at last, in an unseen hamper below.

The pain is nothing compared to the way I feel now, what I know now, what I just learned about myself, and so just leave me alone.

Eyes: I dare not meet in dreams
Just leave me

That is what it is like to run a cross country race. Of course, when the race was over I neither found myself yanked down to the underworld, nor stood long a self-pitying misanthrope.

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Women's Basketball Gives Promise in Season Opener

Wednesday, November 22nd
7:00PM - Men's Basketball vs. Chapman University

Friday, November 24th
8:00PM - Women's Basketball vs. Southern (AZ)

Saturday, November 25th
2:00PM - Women's Basketball vs. Macalaster (MN)
7:00PM - Men's Basketball vs. La Sierra

Sports Update

Men's Basketball
University of Dubuque
L 40-81
West Coast Baptist
College L 68-81

Women's Basketball
CSU East Bay L 40-56
College of St. Catherine (MN) L 40-88

Men's Fencing
UC Irvine W 16-11
UC San Diego L 6-21
CSU Fullerton L 11-16

Women's Fencing
UC Irvine W 18-9
UC San Diego L 5-22
CSU Fullerton 11-16

Upcoming Athletic Events

Wednesday, November 22nd
7:00PM - Men's Basketball vs. Chapman University

Friday, November 24th
8:00PM - Women's Basketball vs. Southern (AZ)

Saturday, November 25th
2:00PM - Women's Basketball vs. Macalaster (MN)
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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.

Maximum Pay

News $25
Features $20
Sports $20
Commentary $20
Humour $20
Good Comics $14
Comics $7
Photos $5
I know, the movie actually had the subtitle “Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan”, but, while the movie was hilarious and everyone should see it for that reason, it was comedy with a purpose: to teach Americans lessons about discrimination. Sacha Cohen himself has been very quiet before, during, and after the movie, allowing only his Borat persona to be interviewed.

For those of you who haven’t seen it, Borat purports to be a Kazakh reporter, and everyone in the movie is unaware that they’re being filmed for something that would air in the US (lesson #1: read the contract before you sign). Also, SPOILER ALERT, I will make specific references to scenes from the movie.

There is still ample bigotry in the US. As a first example, while Borat is on a bus with frat boys from South Carolina, one of them volunteers “In our country, the minorities actually have more power”, not as the saying goes about the woman who voices the opinion. “In our country, the minorities actually have more power”, not over whether or not they should be thrown in jail. That attitude sounds a little too Leviticus (circa 1000BC) and not enough Matthew (circa 9 AD), nor to mention James Madison (circa 1791 AD).

Borat commiserates with a rodeo-goer about all the homosexuals. He suggests putting all homosexuals in jail like they do in Kazakhstan, and his mark replies with “that’s what we’re trying to get done here”. Interesting, I thought the debate was over whether or not homosexuals should be granted equal rights as heterosexuals (i.e. civil unions), not over whether or not they should be thrown in jail. That attitude sounds a little too Leviticus (circa 1791 AD).

Finally, Borat asked what gun would best kill a Jew, and got a response. He also asked a car dealer how fast he would have to drive an H3 to make it through. I hope you kill every man, woman and child in Iraq, down to the lizards, and may George W. Bush drink the blood of every man, woman and child in Iraq.”Borat (aka the comedian Sacha Cohen) at a Virginian rodeo in his new movie, “Borat”."

Thank You Tim Chang

BY: JON SENN

I’d like to personally thank Tim Chang, Senior Director of Housing, for continually granting student interviews to reporters from The Tech. Over our months as Editors, we’ve printed some scathing commentary and run several quotes from students angry with Tim. I feel that it’s important to pull back and make sure to remind our readers that Housing policy is rarely determined solely by Tim, and many of the larger issues students have raised against him may not be his fault.

I won’t use this space to discuss individual issues in depth, but I would like to point out that sometimes The Tech is unable to obtain the complete scoop on intra-administrative workings, and we are not always able to report on the full story behind Housing policy. Additionally, Tim is on occasion unable to fully speak on his own behalf when his job requires confidentiality.

Whether student anger towards Tim concerning Housing policy is misplaced, many students are especially concerned by Tim’s attitude towards students in general. Some students suggest that Tim’s approach towards student interaction is anticipatory of general student-administration animosity, and these students purport that such animosity need not exist within Caltech’s exceptional community. In particular, some students argue that Tim’s approach is not conducive to student-administration communication which could, in many cases, alleviate student concerns with little difficulty – especially when issues are tackled before they develop into large-scale problems.

And this brings me back to thanking Tim for continually granting The Tech interviews. Even if the reader blames him for many of the student-unfriendly Housing policies, one cannot hold that Tim has the disdain for communication with students sometimes attributed to him. Each time we investigate an unpopular Housing policy, Tim promptly grants us an interview, and is entirely forthcoming with Housing’s reasons for implementing the policy. Such accessibility seems uniformly held by Caltech administrators, and the worst that can be said of Tim – or any administrator – is that he should take a more proactive role in communicating with student leaders. Such a role has become a common theme of student discussions over the past year, and we have indeed seen a great deal of improvement. I hope that Tim and other administrators continue to work towards formulating and maintaining policies in conjunction with student leaders to the greatest extent possible.
Website Review: MadBurgers.com

BY: HAMILTONY FALK

Now with a wider wheelbase and race inspired suspension for a smoother ride.

A friend recently recommended that I look into this hip new website called Mad Burgers dot Com. At first I thought they were joking since I have little use for an angry slab of ground beef with various perturbed condiments surrounded by two pissed off buns with may or may not be covered with down right enraged sesame seeds. And don’t get me started about my fear of emotionally unstable special sauce that can’t stand the very sight of me. You can guess how pleased I was to find out that the burgers in question were not mad in the sense of upset, but rather mad in the sense of “mad hot” which can be translated to “hella cool,” “wicked cool” or “snarkily fantabulous” depending on which region you are from (Northern California, New England and the Post-apocalyptic landscape the Teletubbies live in, respectively). So before you judge this website based on its URL, maybe you should take a look.

I should describe some of the website in order to further whet your appetite for the metaphorical burgers being discussed. When you first type the name into your browser all you see is an empty field with various shades of red on it. This is when the magic starts. Like a bald eagle swooping in to save various elves and freedom fighters from nazi-orcs suddenly there is the word Mad and a pictograph that undeniably represents burgers, although it is in fact merely only a portion of one burger.

Then the real genius strikes you. Many websites emphasize the words before the dot com, ignoring the com for the most part, and rarely paying homage to the dot that separates the two sides. MadBurgers.com does no such thing, showing the dot itself beautifully, in the form of what appears to be a large green olive, and then dropping the com in just when you were thinking “there is no way a com is going to show up.” And you’re not even done. Rather than give away any more I’ll just say that at this point in the MadBurgers.com experience you won’t be wanted to ‘exit’ anything anytime soon.

The Tech was recently granted an exclusive interview with the creator of MadBurgers.com, William Z. William Z. informed me that the dot was not in fact an olive, but a pickle, which may or may not be a metaphor for an olive. He also revealed that the site was mostly an attempt to spread his passion for burgers, especially to children who might see very little besides vegetable propaganda when taking a journey through the Internet.

The site is run on a business model based on the famous Google, and William Z. hopes to achieve similar exposure and success. He did promise that the site would evolve and contain content in the future, provided his data was not deleted by communists again. In closing, William Z. had a suggestion for a new visitor: “Don’t race through the site too quickly. Sometimes in life, when you enter something too quickly, you’re really exiting your opportunities.”

So try out MadBurgers.com and if you’re not 100% satisfied then you should probably talk to a doctor. Remember, Hitler never visited MadBurgers.com, and see how it turned out for him (Hitler was the guy who couldn’t get into art school because he hadn’t been to MadBurgers.com).