Former Techers Arrested in Aftermath of Shopping Cart Incident

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

Two Caltech alumni and one former Caltech student were arrested last Tuesday for alleged involvement in what some are calling a prank gone awry that seriously injured a Pasadena woman.

Cesar Desolar, 22, Jessica Alvarenga, 21, and Manuel Garcia, 24, allegedly hoisted a shopping cart on a flagpole in front of the Ralph's Market on the 300 block of West Colorado Boulevard that fell 60 feet onto an employee, breaking her neck.

According to a police statement, the cart crashed on Ralph's Market employee Shantie Maraj on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 21 when she untied the rope to raise the flag, a job she had done daily.

According to the Associated Press, Maraj suffered cervical spine fractures, but shows no sign of paralysis or lasting neurological effects.

"I thank the lord for my recovery," said Maraj to the Whittier Daily News when she was released from the hospital last Tuesday, just hours before the announcement of the arrests of the three suspects. "I thank my children, my co-workers, my customers, my insurance and the police department.

Desolar and Garcia are Caltech alumni from the classes of 2004 and 2005 respectively. Alvarenga transferred from Caltech at the beginning of last year to a California state school and was most recently working in the Los Angeles area, according to Ricketts House president Isaac Garcia-Munoz. All three were members of Ricketts House.

Public relations officer of the Pasadena Police Janet Pope Givens said there was no evidence to suggest that Caltech prankning etiquette was attempted, such as leaving a note or making the prank reversible.

"It is reasonable to conclude that if we had that kind of evidence, we would have a lead earlier in the investigation," said Givens.

Caltech Public Relations released a statement last week that "the actions described by the Pasadena Police are altogether inconsistent with Caltech’s tradition of practical jokes and pranks," but that "those arrested are entitled to a presumption of innocence and we will not comment further."

The administration is not sure what effect the shopping cart incident will have on Caltech pranking.

"I respect the decision of the police department," said John Hall Dean of Students and Acting Vice President for Student Affairs. "At the least, we should review our protocol with this tragic result in mind and reassure ourselves that reckless stunts can never take place."

The three people arrested are charged with assault with a deadly weapon, a crime punishable in California by up to four years in state prison and up to a $10,000 fine.

"The sentence is up to the judicial system," said Givens. "A lot depends on intent. Like in an auto accident, if you were to admit it was an accident at the scene, there may be less punitive measures taken than if it were a hit and run."

Alvarenga was released on a $30,000 bond on Thursday, while Desolar and Garcia were arraigned on Friday.

The happiest I’ve ever seen Pavel was after he won the IPhO. There was this great big smile he had, and usually he was good at suppressing it, but people kept coming up and congratulating him, and every time someone said ‘Hey, congratulations,’ that smile would come out. He just couldn’t keep it down."

-Ben Golub

Preparations Continue for South House Reopening Party

BY: HAROLD MARTIN

With just over a month left until the South House reopening party, which has become widely known simply as Interhouse, excitement is building around campus and plans and funding for the party are being finalized.

Funding for the parties has been acquired for the parties such that, according to ASCST Social Director Chris Gonzales, "(The parties) should not cost the houses one penny." Although ASCST missed the initial deadline to apply for Mentor Bicultural Student Funds (MHSF), a special MHSF meeting has been called to discuss proposals related to the party. In addition, Housing has donated $20,000 towards party construction.

Tom Mannion, Assistant V.P. of Campus Life, has purchased the tickets to the renowned Rose Parade to give to students who return early from winter break to help with Interhouse construction.

Party Themes

Ricketts and Lloyd: Post-apocalyptic Blacker and Avery: Soviet Russia Fleming and Ruddock: Neverneverland Dabney and Page: Speakeasy

Students who are interested in going to the parade are encouraged to contact IHC Chairman Craig Montuori.

The construction and subsequent party are also expected to be filmed for a documentary that could be shown on National Geographic or The Discovery Channel.

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The construction and subsequent party are also expected to be filmed for a documentary that could be shown on National Geographic or The Discovery Channel.
Corrections

In the Nov. 6 edition of The Tech, the caption for the photo of the Lloyd crest in the Lloyd dining hall with Cathy Jurca’s comment about the history and meaning of why a new mural policy was being created. The caption for this photo may have misinformed readers since the proposed policy at the time of publication stated that murals were prohibited for religious, political, or other reasons. The proposed rules at the time of publication also had no requirement for administrative approval before a mural was painted.

Financial errors were made in the wording since it was not a “new proposal for this year” only a proposal (which it still is at this moment). Students interested in reading more about the current proposal should contact the IHC Chair Craig Moncrief or the Master of Student Houses, Cathy Jurca.

The teaser on the front page of The Tech, reported on Nov. 20, that a photo of the Borot review may have offended some of our readers and is not accurate. It is a photo of the Borot crest without clearly indicating the source in the teaser. The feature of the crest was to be taken as some sort of racist attack (in fact, two of our editors are Borot members), and we sincerely apologize for giving any readers cause to feel otherwise.

An Editorial on Freedom

DECEMBER 4, 2006

Is gambling immoral? Is homosexuality an abomination? Is eating meat a sin to avoid killing the livestock? Is it wrong to eat household pets? What about cannibalism? Is drug use immoral? How about taking Tyle- nol? Is premariatial sex immoral? Is it immoral to dishonest thy father or mother or to covet their neighbor’s goods? Is it right to take a prof to lunch? Is it right to refuse to vote in this country, United States history is plagued with specics on specific works of literatures or specific authors.

Each of these acts is alleged to be immoral, but this in no way implies that they should be banned by the government.

How likely is it that all of me traits are immoral? Our society has made such statements on such traits.

It is not an easy task to play Dominos on Sunday. In California it is illegal for women to wear dresses of less than the knee length. If anyone is interested in enrolling in the United States, whereas, slavery was widely practiced until 1865. From 1920 to 1933 the United States prohibited the manufacture, transportation, sale, import, and export of alcohol of beverage. Prior to 1920 women were denied the right to vote in this country. United States history is plagued with specics on specific works of literatures or specific authors.

With the past primary funding of our country we’re not the protection of minorities, these rights are most likely to the core of our notions of freedom. How could these rights be defended if they were not based upon protecting the rights of its citizens.

ASCIT Board of Directors

Minutes from the Side Room in Chan-

Appleton, Wednesday, November 21, 2006

Present Officers: Todd Gingrich, Jean Sun, Vibke Pon, Jon Senn, Ron Krom

Guest: Matt Glassman

1. Tech Camera

* Matt Glassman came to ask for funding at an ASCIT meeting. The Tech does not have a camera, and Matt feels that it must keep their personal cameras for pictures, which is very limiting. Also, Matt expressed interest in helping the ASCIT fund a lot of social events after they happen.

2. Movie Library

* The movie library is in Craig’s old office and needs to be moved to the Winnest. Todd said it out loud that the elevator doesn’t need a key to get a door. However, the storage room next to the recording studio is, however, secured and needs to be moved to the storage room and needs to be moved to the Tech.

3. Budget Update

* Jon handed out the current ASCIT budget for the BoD for review. The BoD said that the money is just for regular dinners. Todd said that the SAC will be in good shape eventually.

6. MOSH Faculty-Student Lunch

* Invited Prof to House Dinners

* Vickie relayed a message from Cathy. Jurca wants to start planning for the first lunch where each student from UCL who wants to plan a lunch with their peers.

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Are some things immoral by an absolute standard? Perhaps. I cannot do an answer, nor has a universally satisfactory answer been presented to me. Without a generally accepted uniform code of morality, the differences that can be found among these worlds are the difference is "in unacceptable shape." Craig said, "More seriously, until 1870, the United States prohibited the import, export, and sale of alcohol of beverage. Prior to 1920 women were denied the right to vote in this country. United States history is plagued with specics on specific works of literatures or specific authors.

Craig gave a heads up that the Senior Class Reps and others of the senior council will be doing a fund a lot of social events after they happen.

The BoD suggested Matt should going the tech, so he will see if Chameau is interested in helping plan these lunches.

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Hepadna, supported by the US, threatened to disrupt the in
vasion, saying, “We don’t hate
any potential hurdles they may be
facing (financial, resources, per
sonnel, creative) along with two
additional incentive for teams
to perform relatively better.

National
Unarmed Brigaded
Killed by Police Mourned
at Funeral

Father of 3 months, the family of the community may submit nomi
nation packages to the Provost’s Of
fice (2007-08) and the other from the
University of California in science
in 2006. Weh and Calderón were
working and that fundamental changes were needed.

“In my view it is time for a
major adjustment. Clearly, what
U.S. forces are currently do-
ing in Iraq is not working well
enough or fast enough,” wrote
Rumsfeld.

The memo also outlined in hy-
pothetical terms the possibility
of U.S. ruling out peace talks and
retreat U.S. strategy in Iraq was not
working and that fundamental
changes were needed.

“With the help of God, we
must find the way of peace to
gether, for the good of human-
ity,” said the Pope.

Feynman Teaching Prize Nominations Open Only Until Dec.

Feynman now will be accepting, through 30, November
ations packages to the Provost’s Of-
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“The memorandum was made
pro
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and Robert E. Paradise, with ad-
ditional contributions from Mr. and
Mrs. William H. Hurt. Nominations
for the Feynman Teaching Prize are
open to faculty, students, post-
doctoral scholars, staff, and alumni.
All professorial faculty of the
In-
terior.

Hezbollah supporters camp out in streets such as this in Beirut hoping to oust Prime Minister Siniora.

Hezbollah supporters have been killed by the U.S. and did neuroscience research then went on to Stanford for a law de-

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Moving Into the South Houses

BY: TODD GINGERICH

We are nearing the end of the South House project, and many respects the houses will be far nicer than they were, but I am concerned about the process of the move-in and construction. I want to share my concerns openly so that we can be more aware of the potential problems and so that the administration can work with us to help us solve the issues as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Students will be allowed to start moving into the South Houses. The move-in will be staggered since many if not most students will be returning home for break from this point onward. I was hopeful that students would be allowed to move their belongings into the South Houses before leaving for home, but this will not be possible since the Houses cannot be inspected by the fire marshal any sooner.

This should give sufficient time to help students move their belongings out of theMods by January 8. This will be an urgent time for students to move at the very beginning of second term.

In order to help make the move easier, I have been assured that Dahatans will be made available to help students move their belongings more easily. These carts should be running by December 15, or if you plan to move your stuff on a different date, talk to housing and they can probably get a cart to help you out.

Progress with the South House rooms is on schedule, but some of the construction in the basement will not be finished immediately. Most notably, the laundry room may not be completely finished until January 15.

Initially, I was told that the laundry rooms would not be functional at all. However, we have heard that the move-in date is unfortunate since students must finish moving into the South Houses by December 21, the fund managers have heard that the move-in date is unfortunate since it will make it difficult for students to get the kitchens going as quickly as possible despite the construction delays, so please bear with them through the second term.

Finally, my biggest concern is the project is the state of the Student Activities Center (SAC) in the basement of the South House complex. Traditionally, the SAC has housed a number of rooms for student activities including music practice rooms, club meeting rooms, the ASCIT screening room, the screenprinting room, the Tech and Big T of the SAC, washing machines, and a few art rooms.

The vast majority of student rooms in the SAC were “eliminated” from the scope of the project. During the “value engineering process” many parts of the project were scaled back. The SAC was consulted to help prioritize some of these cuts, but the decision to not finish the SAC was made without SAC consultation. It is unfortunate that this decision was made without SAC consultation and an oversight committee, especially considering that the planned student center will not be built for a number of years.

Nevertheless, the decision was made and as a consequence many of the basement rooms will be gutted when the students return to the South Houses.

Luckily, many administrators have shared my frustration that the SAC was cut from the project. Vice President for Student Affairs, John Hall, has worked very hard during the last couple of weeks to ensure that we will fund SAC to finish the rooms.

For the most part, renovations on the basement rooms will be minor. The rooms need ventilation, electrical outlets, carpet, and some wall-heights. We have heard that it will be difficult to get the rooms going as quickly as possible despite the construction delays, so please bear with them through the second term.

To make ends meet, here our heroine takes over a friend’s restaurant to earn money on the side. At the same time, she finds a way to dispose of her husband’s body, which would cost a few hundred thousand dollars, a rather modest figure compared to the cost of some of the other features which were included in the construction.

I have been told by Vice President Hall that President Chameau considers finishing the SAC to be a priority. Provost Jennings and Vice President Currie will be working to estimate the cost and identify funding. In mid-January the administration should be ready to meet with students to discuss a final plan for the project. Obviously, it is not ideal that the SAC will not be able to open with the rest of the South Houses, but I am now optimistic that it should be open by the next school year if not before.

The character development is

Continued on Page 5

Tough Couple Weeks for Investors in Finance Experiment

On Tuesday, November 21, the fund managers traded in the sixth round of their experiment. There were 32 managers and 73 investors who participated, all of them Caltech students. 32 managers and 73 investors have been participating in the experiment since October 2. The fund managers are identified by random numbers and held on to them. In this round, most funds have negative perform. If you would like to participate in the experiment in the next round, you will be interested in the results of the managers performed in the previous rounds, visit http://econ. caltech.edu/sip/index.html

Return to Laughter

By: Cindy Ko

During one of our routine family dinners in Burnes Ayes, my host mother, a spunky lady in her 50s, had mentioned to me that she had seen a movie recently—a comedy. When I asked her what it was called, she replied, "Volver." It shocked me that someone would refer to an Almodòvar film as a comedy. The few films of his that I had seen had seemed funny to me, but more like twisted, odd, and sometimes full of transsexuals. I asked her again, "Volver?" She replied, "Sí, claro! [Yes, of course!]

After finally seeing it this week, I think I'd agree with my host mother. The film: obsession with twisted coin signals to the viewer that something is amiss. Our heroine, Raimunda (played by Penelope Cruz), is a working woman who takes on a convoluted mess when her teenage daughter commits a murder that she can’t blame her for. One night while Raimunda works out at the gym, her band makes drunken attempts at their daughter, who manages to defend herself but stabs and kills her father in the process.

During the film, Raimunda must right all the wrongs, protect her daughter, and remain a pillar of strength for her family. In addition to that, her elderly aunt is barely able to care for herself and lives, two dark rooms, the DDR room, and a few art rooms.

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During one of our routine family dinners in Burnes Ayes, my host mother, a spunky lady in her 50s, had mentioned to me that she had seen a movie recently—a comedy. When I asked her what it was called, she replied, "Volver." It shocked me that someone would refer to an Almodòvar film as a comedy. The few films of his that I had seen had seemed funny to me, but more like twisted, odd, and sometimes full of transsexuals. I asked her again, "Volver?" She replied, "Sí, claro! [Yes, of course!]

After finally seeing it this week, I think I'd agree with my host mother. The film: obsession with twisted coin signals to the viewer that something is amiss. Our heroine, Raimunda (played by Penelope Cruz), is a working woman who takes on a convoluted mess when her teenage daughter commits a murder that she can’t blame her for. One night while Raimunda works out at the gym, her band makes drunken attempts at their daughter, who manages to defend herself but stabs and kills her father in the process.

During the film, Raimunda must right all the wrongs, protect her daughter, and remain a pillar of strength for her family. In addition to that, her elderly aunt is barely able to care for herself and lives, two dark rooms, the DDR room, and a few art rooms.
Tips for Writing the Personal Statement

BY: JONIE WATANABE TSUJI CAREER COUNSELOR

Christmas 1988. My uncle gave me my first Lego set and my engineering career began. From constructing that first crudely built house at age 3, to building a toothpick suspension bridge at 16, to working with a talented team on an autonomous ground vehicle at 20 (the DARPA Grand Challenge), I've cultivated a passion for engineering.

What will a graduate school admissions committee think of this opening? Is it catchy enough to make them want to read on? What would they want to see next? Writing a personal statement for graduate school—putting oneself on paper for strangers’ judgment—can be daunting. However, keeping a few tips in mind may make it easier for students to prepare successful personal statements.

Dr. Steven Youra, the Director of the Hixon Writing Center, discussed the structure of a personal statement: a strong opening engages readers and makes them want to read on; an appropriate ending provides closure without reaching for platitudes or grandeur. At the center, writers discuss their motivations and reasons for a career in a particular field, present relevant personal qualities and experiences, and perhaps explain (but not excuse) any unusual circumstances (inconsistent grades, time-off, etc.).

* Writers should try to “show” more than “tell.” A description of personal qualities is strengthened by specific details and incidents. In the same vein, although different schools may ask similar questions, writers should try to customize their statements by including details that convey why a particular school or program is a good match, and, if appropriate, naming faculty members they’d like to work with.

* As for the writing process, Youra encourages students to begin by brainstorming to generate ideas and produce rough writing that they can later shape, organize, revise, and edit. In revising, writers should solicit feedback, both from others who know them (e.g., classmates, advisors) and those who don’t (e.g., Career Center staff, the Hixon Writing Center’s peer writing consultants).

Writing a winning personal statement isn’t fun, but it can be rewarding. Understanding the components of an effective essay and developing an efficient writing process can certainly ease the task. For help at any stage of the writing process, contact the CDC or the Hixon Writing Center: http://writing.caltech.edu.
Men’s Cross Country

Coach Scott Jung’s men finished in 8th place of eight teams at the SCIAC Multi-Dual meet Oct. 14, and again in 8th at the SCIAC Championships two weeks later. In their final competition of the year, the team competed in 12th of 15 teams at the DIII West Regional, and was the 4th SCIAC team in the meet. “The worst part [of the season] was dealing with the injuries,” said Jung. Jung nonetheless thinks the season went well for the Beavers, “everyone had their best race for conferences.” Jung believes he executed six U-turns this year, several of which have been photographically documented. Individually, junior Matt Kiesz was the team MVP and won the Paul Barthel cross country award.

Women’s Cross Country

After three early tune-up meets, the women’s cross country team earned 7th place in the SCIAC Multi-Dual meet and 8th place in the SCIAC Championships, finishing the year tied for 7th place in the conference with Whittier. Caltech was again the 7th SCIAC team at the West Regional, where they finished 9th in 16 teams. “I thought this team was closer than more teams in the past,” said Coach Dodo’s team’s record this year. The Caltech “C” team did win a game on Sept. 30, defeating the regular, unlettered Caltech team in the process. Sophomore Tom Oliver performed exceptionally well and made the second all-conference team.

Men’s Water Polo

If 0-10 sounds like a bad season record, it could be worse. For example, it could be 0-16, which was Coach Dodd’s team’s record this year. The Caltech “C” team did win a game against Whittier this year on Oct. 24, but in volleyball you have to win three games or it doesn’t count. This is called a set, and you can learn more about it by taking Math 5. Coach Bud’s Beavers finished the season with an 0-23 record. Senior Lisa Streit led the team in a variety of stats, the exact nature of which proved mostly inscrutable to this reporter.

Men’s Basketball

After the loss to graduation of the 2005-2006 basketball team’s core, Coach Roy Dow says this year the team’s goal is simply “to keep getting better,” both in practice and in games, as the season progresses. The team is 0-5 in exclusively non-conference play so far, a record indicating things are going to plan, as the only place to go is up. Key players for the team this year will include Brian Hires, Paxton Frady, Mike Underhill, Travis Haussler, and Matt Dellatore. Frady and Chris Yu are the team captains. Dow says the plan for the year is not to focus on any one opponent. “There’s a tendency of our athletic teams to point to games on the schedule where it’s that team immediately above them in the standings. When we do that we miss out on other potential opportunities,” he said. By next term the team will be practicing five days a week and missing very few opportunities indeed. Their next home game while school is in session lands on Jan. 4 against Robert Morris.

Women’s Basketball

The women’s basketball team has started its season with four losses, but that’s okay, because they have 21 games left to try to improve. The team won two games against Southwestern Col-lege last year, who they will play in a home game on Jan. 3, the first day of second quarter. Rene Davis and Lindsay King are the team captains and expected leaders on the court. I could continue copying the copious information from the Caltech Athletics website, but that would just be a bit excessive. The women take on Chapman at home on Dec. 10.

Men and Women Swimming and Diving

This is another sport we have. The men and women easily defeated Chapman in a dual meet Nov. 28 before just as easily los- ing to Redlands Dec. 1. On Jan. 6 they will entertain Pomona-Pitzer in a dual meet here at Tech.

GSC Hosts Annual Gradiators Event

The spectators hold their breath as the warriors enter the arena. Their taut, muscular bodies gleam under the sun as the gladiators get ready to fight until the bitter end. The gladiators’ positions are varied, some are able to “keep getting better,” both in practice and in games, as the season progresses. The team is 0-5 in exclusively non-conference play so far, a record indicating things are going to plan, as the only place to go is up. Key players for the team this year will include Brian Hires, Paxton Frady, Mike Underhill, Travis Haussler, and Matt Dellatore. Frady and Chris Yu are the team captains. Dow says the plan for the year is not to focus on any one opponent. “There’s a tendency of our athletic teams to point to games on the schedule where it’s that team immediately above them in the standings. When we do that we miss out on other potential opportunities,” he said. By next term the team will be practicing five days a week and missing very few opportunities indeed. Their next home game while school is in session lands on Jan. 4 against Robert Morris.

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 10th
4:00PM - Women's Basketball vs. Chapman Univ.

Saturday, December 16th
1:00PM - Men's Basketball - Caltech vs. UC Santa Cruz
3:00PM - Men's Basketball - Cal Lutheran vs. Pacific (OR)
5:30PM - Women's Basketball - Caltech vs. San Diego Christian

Sunday, December 17th
1:00PM - Men's Basketball vs. Pacific (OR) @ Cal Lutheran

Thursday, December 28th
6:00PM - Women's Basketball @ San Diego Christian Univ.

Friday, December 29th
Caltech Men's Basketball Festival
2:00PM - Caltech vs. Williams College (MA)
4:00PM - Occidental College vs. Wisconsin Lutheran Univ.

Saturday, December 30th
7:30PM - Women's Basketball @ La Sierra Tourney

Sunday, December 31st
Caltech (Men's) Basketball Festival
1:00PM - Caltech vs. Wisconsin Lutheran Univ.
3:00PM - Occidental College vs. Williams College (MA)
TBA - Women's Basketball @ La Sierra Tourney

Wednesday, January 3rd
7:30PM - Women's Basketball vs. Southwestern College (AZ)

Thursday, January 4th
10:30AM - M/W Swimming & Diving @ Pomona-Pitzer Colleges
7:30PM - Men's Basketball vs. Bard College (NY)

Puzzle courtesy of http://www.websudoku.com/
Commentary

Checking the Force of the Police Force

BY: EVANS BONEY

When I was in Pittsburgh recently, a group of people with anti-war signs were standing outside a closed recruitment office. While they hadn’t gotten permission to gather, there were only about 20 people, and they had the permission of the owners of the businesses where they were gathering. I happened to be eating breakfast across the street, and was taken aback by what I saw there.

At the same time, four police cars showed up, and eight policemen jumped out. They rated the crowd, not asking to speak to who was in charge, but shouting at them to leave immediately.

The leader, a 55-year-old woman, then came over to talk to them. At this time, a K-9 unit arrived. The man handling the dog wasn’t strong enough to stop him, and the dog dragged the man over to the 55-year-old woman, whom the dog proceeded to attack.

The woman, having been initially cooperative and then attacked without provocation, wanted to leave, and refused to come with the police. She was accordingly arrested for resisting arrest. No video, no repercussions. I have a problem with this.

Recently, several videos have surfaced of LA area police department brutality. As a student, I am most disturbed by the behavior of the UCPD at UCLA. When one student without an ID card wouldn’t leave the computer center, the campus police called in the real police. Upon sighting the UCPD, the student decided it was time to leave, grabbed his backpack, and tried to go. At this point, the police stopped him from leaving. After that, it’s all on tape.

The student screams “get your hands off me”, and is clearly uncooperative, and so he gets tased. Maybe there is some reason he needed to be apprehended, so fine, tasing him the first time is not my gripe.

My gripe is that, while on the ground after being tased the first time, the student lets the police know he is willing, but unable to cooperate. When the police try to stand him up, he does not help, and remains limp.

He gets tased again. This happens 2-3 more times. When other students try to intervene, they are told to step back or they’ll be tased. So is a student who asks the policemen for their identification numbers. After the video surfaced, the internal investigation began. I have a problem with this.

Policemen, in general, do a great job, but when they use more than necessary force they must be punished. Who will guard the guards? While it should be internal affairs, apparently, these days, it’s the video-phone.