Housing Explains New Policies for Pets in Houses

BY: NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

As much as some Caltech cats are used to enjoying the freedom of roaming free outside the houses and laying out in the sun, their lifestyles will have to change under the new cat policy that went into effect at the beginning of this term.

Representatives from Institute Housing, including Tim Chang, were available to answer questions about the policy during a small Pet Education fair that took place on Thursday on the San Pasqual Mall. The fair, sponsored by the Caltech Animal Team (CAT) and Housing, included representatives from the Pasadena Humane Society as well as from several pet stores. Aside from providing an opportunity to discuss the cat policy, the fair was complete with a variety of information regarding pet care, local veterinary hospitals and other places of interest, as well as a raffle for cat food.

Chang cited a variety of issues as a justification for the new, more restrictive cat policy, which went into effect at the beginning of this term.

Continued on page 3

Jared Diamond Marks an Epochal Event

BY: MARK EICHENLAUB

Dr. Jared Diamond, Professor of Geography at UCLA, will deliver the keynote speech at Caltech’s 2007 Commencement ceremony. Dr. Diamond is best known as the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Guns, Germs, and Steel, which argues that the geography has been the most important factor in creating the different rates of technological and cultural advancement between human civilizations.

Dr. Diamond’s academic work has spanned the gamut of intellectual pursuits, from biophysics to ornithology and evolutionary biology to anthropology and linguistics. His current research continues his investigations of the relationships between geography and human societies. His most recent book, Collapse, explores the roots of why some societies flourish while others fall.

Dr. Diamond was chosen from a long list of as many as 70 possible commencement speakers, according to Senior Class Co-President Cindy Ko. Ko and Co-President Isaac Garcia-Muñoz polled the members of the senior class to get an idea of who the students would like to hear deliver the keynote address.

The Co-Presidents created a short list of preferred candidates, but none were available to give the speech. Caltech offers neither honorary degrees nor speaker fees to prospective commencement speakers, making it difficult to attract some potential speakers. “Dr. Bunsen Honeydew” and “Beaker”, the scientific pedagogues from The Muppet Show, as well as political satirist Jon Stewart, were unavailable for this reason.

“We bring our list to a committee of Bob O’Rourke, VP of Public Relations, Professor Cindy Weinstein, and Daniel Taba. We discuss the possibilities and decide who we are going to ask. Then President Chameau uses his strings to try to entice people,” Ko said of the selection process.

President Chameau said that in the future, the selection process should start earlier. “A number of names were suggested to me, but none were available to give the speech. Caltech offers neither honorary degrees nor speaker fees to prospective commencement speakers, making it difficult to attract some potential speakers. “Dr. Bunsen Honeydew” and “Beaker”, the scientific pedagogues from The Muppet Show, as well as political satirist Jon Stewart, were unavailable for this reason.

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**Free Plants**

Sixty 15-gallon containers of golden bamboo and several one-gallon containers of foil plant containers are left over from the temporary student center on Holliston Avenue, which is being decommissioned. This particular type of bamboo is great for making screens, hedges, or other landscape projects. Anyone interested in using the plants is encouraged to call the Grounds Office at 395-4725.

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**Announcements**

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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 discre- tion). Email submissions to tech@caltech.edu.

**Maximum Pay**

**News $25**
**Features $20**
**Sports Commentary $20**
**Humour $20**
**Good Comics $14**
**Comics $7**
**Photos $5**
Tighter Rules for Pets on Campus

Continued From page 1

Tight rules for pets on campus are now in effect as of Jan. 1, 2007. “It was an accumulation of reasons, especially after we took into account that many people have allergies. There were also a lot of animals that were abandoned during the break,” said Chang.

He further specified in an e-mail, “Cats were found defecating in children sandbox areas, kittens were found dead from lack of care, and there has been a lot of damage from cats who were sick or unable to care for themselves.”

The policy, devised by Housing in cooperation with CAT, requires that cats are kept within the owner’s room unless they are walked on a hand-held leash under six feet long or transported in a pet carrier. Furthermore, the number of cats per undergraduate house is limited to three, with exception of Avery, which is not allowed to have cats. The policy also requires sterilization and vaccinations, and specifies responsibilities of the owners for the care of the cat, including a non-refundable payment of $200 for cat’s registration.

In addition to cats, other animals are also limited by the Caltech pet policy and must be kept inside a 20-gallon aquarium. Under this specification, larger animals, such as rabbits, are not allowed in the undergraduate facilities.

“There were a lot of conflicting desires,” said Heath. “We wanted to find a compromise that will work for everyone.”

Heath explained that Housing and CAT went through 15 drafts of the revised cat policy before it was finally approved. “We modeled the draft after the standard contract of the Pasadena Humane Society, although we modified it to fit Caltech,” he said.

The compromise, however, does not satisfy everyone. A student cat owner, who chose to remain anonymous, said, “I think that the leash policy is not reasonable because it is almost impossible to keep a cat on a leash. As for the keeping cats in the room, I don’t think it’s all that bad, but dorm rooms are usually really small.

Another anonymous student also had concerns, saying “It is actually more humane to keep a cat in such a small confined space, and it is more likely to induce more of the disturbance because it is inherent to cats to meow. It will also cause more property damage.”

The complete policy can be found on CAT’s website, cat.caltech.edu, and is available in print from Insti-tute Housing.
Labyrinth a Disappointment for Cindy

BY: CINDY KO

The following is an excerpt of Cindy’s review of this movie two weeks ago.

After watching the movie trailer for Pan’s Labyrinth on the Apple website, I was pretty stoked to watch it because it seemed like a movie with a lot of things going for it. Although I wasn’t familiar with the director, Guillermo del Toro, the short snippet of the film was dreadful, mainly because he induces such evil and hatred. However, in the end, the real star of the show was certainly Pedro Almodovar and Alejandro Amenabar.

The picture is beautifully filmed, the settings are picturesque and the CGI graphics are seamlessly integrated into the storyline. The movie is properly paced and there is never a dull moment. While we hate it whenever the story switches between the fantasy and war plots, it takes only a few minutes to readjust and become reinvigorated.

Pan’s Labyrinth is a much needed masterpiece in a year where many movies were good but very few were great. The ending might not seem satisfying at first, but it is the best way to intertwine both stories into a conclusion that exemplifies the spirit of the film. This movie is not cute, through, and like Cindy said, there are far better choices for a first date. Nonetheless, as it is a groundbreaking and significant film and I implore you to see the film and form your own opinion.

The storyline was fine but not magical enough for me. I expected a heavier focus on the fantasy world, and less on the things going on in Ofelia’s harsh reality. This touches on the fact that the director adds seemingly gratuitous scenes of torture and violence to the film. It’s hard to say what the purpose was for doing so, but one can only guess that it was to bring the movie into a more visceral arena, and emphasize that this is not a film for children, like Harry Potter.

However, it’s clear that Pan’s Labyrinth is meant for the older audience, this contradicts the fact that every figure in the movie was flat and caricatured. The “bad” guys were horrible and had scars on their faces; the “good” guys were really good and looked handsome—the protagonist was especially pretty. The only issue of ambiguity was that the creatures that came from the underworld: those that were ugly and strange, and yet were ready to welcome Ofelia back to her kingdom by cruelly giving her tasks to prove her worth. The movie is strange, confusing, and surprisingly superficial. The only thing really worth watching in Pan’s Labyrinth is the brilliant performance by the young Ivana Baquero, who plays the role of Ofelia. Although she is not on the map in terms of big-name stars, she more than makes up for it with talent, exuding the endless grace and poise of a royal princess for the entirety of the film. Surely Baquero’s performance in Pan’s Labyrinth will open new roles for her in the future.

I came out of the movie feeling un-move and awkward, which is definitely not what I expected at all. If you think that Pan’s Labyrinth is a good date movie, or a movie to take your little sister to, you’d be way off track. Actually, I don’t even know if I would recommend it to any circumstances—it wasn’t terrible, it was just terribly disappointing.
BY: NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

The [losing] streak continued, but for once, there was hope.” — Quantum Hoops


Sounds cheesy? I thought it did. Quite honestly, my expectations for Quantum Hoops, directed by Rick Greenwald, were not all that high. Sure, I was excited to see a movie about the Tech basketball team, but that was mostly because the team is one of our own, and I was excited to see a movie directed by Rick Greenwald, who has been successful in the past with documentaries. In addition to general feelings about the film, I was excited for the opportunity to see the last season of the team, which was won by Tech and Whitmer in the Sweet Sixteen.

Greenwald had truly managed to capture the audience’s attention as everybody watched the ball sink into the Tech basket two seconds before the end of overtime. As I looked around, I saw people blankly staring into the screen, their mouths gaping in disbelief and faces crumpling in pain as they realized that as hard as the team had tried, the 200+ SCIAC losing streak was not yet over. All in all, I was very pleasantly surprised at how the movie had turned out. As much as I dislike documentaries, I enjoyed watching this one, as it was skillfully constructed by Greenwald, intertwining the story of the last year’s team with what came before it. Although I found it slightly difficult to keep track of all the past basketball players and would have rather seen a larger focus on the most recent team, I appreciated the extensive amount of research that Greenwald conducted. Greenwald himself described his endeavor to make the film as “a glorious research project, which is more than anything that I did in college.”

Greenwald’s dedication to the film particularly caught my attention. Funding the entire film himself because he did not want to lose the control of the way that it was going, he spent a year making the movie. Greenwald explained that he became interested in Caltech basketball after seeing a short story in “Sports Illustrated” on Coach Dow. Planning to film a short on the coach, Greenwald started to look into the film, and quickly became interested.

“It was more than just a silly losing streak, that’s how it grew from what I intended to be a 10-minute short into an 85-minute film that you saw.”

The film sold out in its initially scheduled two showings and also aired two more times, eventually coming in seventh in the Audience Choice Award out of more than two hundred films at the festival.


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Understanding Attention Deficit Disorder

When: Thursday, February 18th at Noon
Where: Caltech Y Lounge

You may be noticing that your mind wanders off task causing you to read the same material multiple times. Maybe you’re struggling with organization, time management, focusing, and self-discipline. If you, or anyone you know has difficulties in these areas, you may want to come to find out more about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). In this workshop, Dr. Herman will discuss the importance of self care, medication management, behavioral interventions to help maintain attention, techniques to aid memory, strategies to overcome procrastination, and general tips for mood management.

Santa Barbara Film Festival with a score 4.7/5. Greenwald plans to show the film at the upcoming Atlanta, Seattle, and the Tribeca festivals before releasing it at small theaters and hopefully television and DVD. But for now, he enjoys being here, at Caltech.

“I enjoy walking through campus and meeting all these people, Noble Prize professors, students, and athletes... This school is definitely unique.”

As suspicious as I had been prior to the screening, I have had to reconsider my attitude in the favor of Quantum Hoops. Contrary to my fears, Greenwald managed to effectively capture the unique spirit of Caltech in his movie.
In other sports news, Tom Rose and Yike Lu of the track team look forward to bright futures in the first few strides of the 100m.

Rene Davis sweeps down the court.

Lisa Yee during the final moments of the game.

The final score, 54-52. For those unfamiliar with basketball, that is only a one-basket difference between winning and the opposite.

Nate Donnellan, the new senior co-president, plays on as Tech makes a shot. “The pep-band pumps up the crowd.”

In other sports news, Tom Rose and Yike Lu of the track team look forward to bright futures in the first few strides of the 100m.
Cat Policy? More like Cat Policy.

By: Hamiltony Falk

As many of you now know, Caltech has instituted a new policy regarding pets in general, on campus, or in other Housing owned properties: dB. The Cat must be at least 17 years old and possess a California driver’s license. c. The Cat must receive regular physical checkups, be medicated against fleas and other common parasites and should eat fish and nuts, as these are high in omega-3 fatty acids known to reduce heart disease when eaten in a regular basis. d. The Cat may not stalk, kill and consume any humans unless they were really acting like prey, in which case they had it coming. e. The Cat may not play any musical instruments except the piano, and playing of said cats must be restricted to daylight hours during the work week. f. The Cat must be at least 17 years old and possess a California driver’s license to operate a motor vehicle, and must be at least 21 years old in order to consume alcohol. g. The Cat may not leave the owners room without being on a leash.

We can change this con-

tract at anytime without tell-
ing you and if you have a cat we can make you be on seven
day board or something, or you have to give us up 100 dol-
lars. Because we’re in charge, and we said so.

Many of you probably read that and thought something like “wow, that’s a silly con-
tact, does housing really think they can make cats live inside all the time or only go out when on a leash? You probably ass-
umed I was joking, because I often do, but unfortunately Housing is serious.

You might think it’s cruel to

keep a cat that has been living on campus for several years and has been allowed to roam freely to be locked in a small room only to leave when on a leash. You might even com-
pare it to say, prison, another situation in which freedom is taken away and replaced with confinement.

To this I say, cats are not criminals, and their situation is entirely different. Cats get to go out into the “yard” without wearing a leash[3]. This leads to another service we will provide to you in order that you may comply more com-
pletely with the new Caltech pet policy. Here is a step by step guide to putting a leash on a cat so that you may remove it from its tiny, tiny cell.

1. Buy “cat leash” from store.
2. Go to a pet store.
3. Ask for a leash for a cat
4. Explain that you’re seri-
ous, you want a leash for a cat
5. Finally agree to buy a
leash for a small dog because they don’t sell leashes for cats.
6. Hang your head in shame as you leave while the staff of the store ruthlessly mocks your purchase.
7. Attempt to wrestle the leash onto your cat.
8. Realize that cats have five
doors out of six with points by
them, and are willing to ap-
ply these to you if you try to
put a leash on them.
9. Attempt to put the leash on the cat while it is sleeping.
10. Realize that your “cat-
like” reflexes are still not as
good as your cats simply “cat”
reflexes.
11. Use much more tranquil-
zizer to really put the cat out.
12. Watch the cat fall asleep.
13. Notice the cat doesn’t
seem to be breathing
14. Wonder if you killed your
cat, question the morality of
and then curse the cat policy.
15. Get swiped by your still
seemingly unconscious cat.
16. Give up

If you do somehow manage
to get a leash on the cat, e-mail
me, and I’ll give you a step by
step guide as to how to get a
cat to just walk around while on a leash, rather than jump-
ing and climbing and charging
you with claws out[4]. And
remember, it’s always a good idea to call the local Red Cross organization to insure they have sufficient quantity of your blood type before attempting to put a leash on a cat.

(Footnotes)
1. Attending The Tech staff
lunch and listening to other
people who have done actual
research.
2. As housing explained it “we’re not the boss of tiger
but-hesh!”
3. Also, few cats have tattoos that say things like “thug 4 life” with the exception being Velcro, the cat reported on in last week’s Tech.
4. Fat chance.

A Chilling Story of the Future
(and Past)

By: Andy Downard

I figured out how to travel through time while I was deliv-
ering the Hartford (CT) Cou-
rant to neighborhood subscri-
bers in 1992. And no, it’s not
any far-fetched plan that relies
on a Delorian, sling-shotting
around it until you are dizzy.
Left hand, South Pole, run
into the future? Hold on to the
puzzle from

ADVERTISEMENT

10. Use much more tranquil-
zizer to really put the cat out.
11. Use much more tranquil-
zizer to really put the cat out.
12. Give up
The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

XKCD Comics by Randall Munroe

Photo from nationalgeographic.com