Missing South House items raise suspicions

Construction workers suspected, but no evidence found

BY: LEE FEINMAN

A rash of missing items from the South Houses shortly after their reopening has left many students frustrated and suspicious about sharing their living space with the South House construction workers.

The missing items, totaling over an estimated $5,800, were mostly of computer equipment and laptops, and occurred in Blacker, Dabney, and Fleming in mid-January. According to Senior Director of Housing Tim Chang, the Dean's Office is looking into reimbursements for the stolen property.

Students appear to believe the construction workers took these items, though no direct accusations have been made for lack of evidence.

Seth Hendrickson and Marlene Fecho, Blacker House members whose laptops are missing, said they believed a construction worker is the likely culprit because their computers disappeared early in the morning, and because no one has been watching the construction workers.

Chang echoed the students' concerns. He said he found no evidence of items increased only in areas under construction. “The difference is the contractors,” he said. “The coincidence is striking.”

Norm Roberts, project manager for the contractors, Taisei, Inc., did not respond to emails from the Tech requesting an interview and a phone number provided for him by Major Projects connected to a different Taisei employee's voicemail. Though the exact number of missing items could not be obtained from Caltech Security's online weekly incident reports, students have kept a tally of items that disappeared since the South House move-in.

Blacker House Stewardship representative Drew Helsley provided a list of items missing from Blacker totaling an estimated $3,020. Additionally, Chang reported that there was a laptop missing from a student room in Dabney.

Fleming House President Roh Hunter related the simultaneous disappearance of three computer monitors from Fleming's multipurpose mod trailer and one full computer from Fleming's SAC computer lab. The monitor's security cables had been cut and the computer towers were left, suggesting that they were not simply moved for safekeeping without notification.

Hunter also reported that during Interhouse construction, the difference is the contractors—the coincidence is striking.

Senior Director of Housing Tim Chang joked that the “…building should have been one-hundred percent complete before moving in,” as this situation resulted in “elements mixing that should not be mixing.”

Assistant Vice President for Campus Life Carrington said that not completing the South House project by September resulted in what he called a “security nightmare.”

Chang also questioned Major Projects' decision to leave student areas unfinished during construction space with the South House Projects' decision to leave students with their property, he felt that the “…building should have been one-hundred percent complete before moving in,” as this situation resulted in “elements mixing that should not be mixing.”

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Unlocked doors are becoming rarer in the student houses as Administration advises students to lock their doors when they are not in use to prevent theft.

Freshman swims her way to finals

For Diane Plummer, the SCIACS the limit

BY: NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

Caltech has yet another athlete this year who is making waves in the sports arena—this one prefers to leave her Olympic ambitions at home.

Freshman Diane Plummer, who has already broken six SCIAC records, qualified for SCIAC finals this weekend after finishing seventh in the 400 Individual Medley (I.M.), a combination of freestyle, butterfly, breaststroke, and backstroke; the event is traditionally regarded as the “toughest event of the meet,” according to swimming coach Clinton Dodd.

Throughout the season, Caltech's women's swimming team is in a state of flux, with some areas unfinished during

President Chameau keeps Early Action for at least one more year

BY: HAROLD MARTIN

After much debate and speculation, Caltech President Jean-Lou Chameau has decided to continue Caltech's Early Action (EA) program for the 2007-2008 cycle. The program, triggered by Harvard's announcement that it was terminating its early application program, Chameau's long awaited decision came after extensive evaluations by the Admissions Committee and the Faculty Board.

“The dynamics of admissions at Caltech and other universities are in a state of flux,” wrote President Chameau in an email interview. “It seemed preferable not to add another variable in our current process.”

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One such step being taken this year, President Chameau said, is to reinstate three day pre-freshman weekend. Changes planned for this year include changing the dates of the new classes to Old Pasadena for lunch on Saturday and serving In-N-Out burgers at Saturday dinner.
**BY: VIBHA LALIANI**

THE WORLD

Rice struggles to hold together plans for Mideast talks

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, tried to hold together her ambition on Sunday to restart Middle East peace talks even though arguments over a new Palestinian unity government signaled that the Bush administration's renewed peace process might have arrived at a bad time.

"I'm committed to [Mideast talks]. As long as I'm secretary of State, that's what I'm going to do."

The new talks are set for Monday. Ms. Rice will play host for her meeting with Mr. Abbas and Ehud Olmert, Prime Minister of Israel.

**SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY**

Nasa's 5-satellite mission blasts off

A Delta-2 rocket lifted five of Nasa's satellites on Sunday evening from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The launch was delayed by a day, cause of strong winds that may have affected the rocket's path. The mission is to determine the source of powerful geomagneticauroral storms in the Earth's atmosphere, which can damage communications satellites, power grids and emit high amounts of radiation on spacecraft astronauts and airplane passengers flying over northern latitudes.

Scientists hope that the $200 million mission will end scientific debate regarding the origin of these storms.

One theory is that these substorms are triggered about 50,000 miles from the earth's equator when electromagnetic turbulence disrupts the flow of strong space currents.

It is opposed by the theory that they start about 100,000 miles from the earth's equator when magnetic energy is spontaneously converted into heat.

This new program hopes Nasa has launched on one rocket. However, previously, a joint effort of Taiwan's National Science Foundation launched six micro-satellites on one rocket.

**BUSINESS**

Harley-Davidson to end strike

Motorcycle manufacturer, Harley-Davidson, has reached a tentative agreement with its striking workers to end the two-week strike at its largest plant in the US. The company has not disclosed any details of the agreement. However, it says that he expects the staff to vote on it in the next few days. Moreover, Harley has not given any information about when motorcycle production would resume in its factory in York, Pennsylvania.

About 2800 workers walked off the plant on February 2, when their contracts expired, in a protest against the most pugilist their salary and benefit concessions.

**SPORTS**

Murray fights for title in San Jose Open

Andy Murray battled Croat Ivo Karlovic and retained his SAP Open Title in San Jose on Sunday, February 18, Murray, British number one, came through 6-7 (3) -7-6 (7-2) to win the second ATP Tour title of 2007.

Murray won an early break point before he took the tie-break and broke in the second set. Moreover, Murray recovered with two breaks to level before claiming the final set tie-break. Murray wandered an early break point in the fifth game by missing a makeable backhand. Then the set moved to a predictable tie break at 5-3 in the breaker. Murray dropped a serve and Karlovic raced toward the set. Although Karlovic has committed once before the final game, Murray broke back almost immediately and brought back the pressure in game 10 to level.

In the final game, Murray got a mini break at 2-1. Karlovic made his first double fault and went down 3-0. With 40-15, Murray was on the verge of victory.

Extra money for ASCIT to spend

Present: Chris Gonzales, Mike Grinolds, Andrea Dubin, Jon Sen, John Dabiri, Craig Montori, Mike Woods, Caleb Ng, Ektu Bhujwani, Patrick Herring, Daryl Coleman, Zack Higbee

"The fiscal year ends Feb. 28," noted Caleb Ng. "Money to buy him booze."

"If anyone has any suggestions, contact a member of the BoD"

-Craig proposed we use the extra alcohol from interhouse and amplifier went missing. They could be check out the same way as books. This would mean not being able to return the DVD's during the hours of 1am-7am. If anyone has better ideas, they should contact the SFP office. We will talk to the librarians to see if this is feasible.

-Lawn Furniture

Patrick will write an MHF proposal asking for lawn furniture outside the south kitchens in the

RF courtyard for sitting at lunch to encourage interhouse and student community. He will talk to Peter Daily about this.

-ASCIT kiosk

The ASCIT kiosk will be re-designed and maintained by Andrea Dubin

-Undergraduate research opportunity

Caleb suggested bringing back this publication that used to inurnal. The students would submit for research during the summer and during the year. Caleb talked to the SFP office about it already. In the past it was about 20 pages long. First we should figure out why it died out. Caleb suggested that it also include general guidelines for getting research projects and gives suggestions about the process.
Apache draws a tough and dirty crowd

Suspicions fall on construction workers
Tim Chang acknowledges student concerns
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was an Institute decision.”
Additionally, Bradley Smith, Major Projects’ manager for the South House project, communicated that Major Projects had “…said from the very beginning that it would be finished by December 15th.” Khang-Keating agreed.

“We moved in the students exactly when they were supposed to,” she said. Continued work was due to “minor things that need to be fixed.”

Chang also indicated that Housing had taken steps to prevent suspicion from falling on the contractors, requiring them to be accompanied by representatives of Housing when working in undergraduate areas. Since this went into effect, there have been no more reported missing items.

Chang also said that Major Projects, which handles most construction on campus, was the only Caltech entity communicating with the construction workers regularly. He expressed concern that Major Projects had not worked extensively on a residence, having primarily concerned themselves with offices and labs.

“I think Major Projects views [housing] as the same type of thing, but it’s not,” said Chang.

But Khang-Keating said: “We have done…quite a bit of housing work. This wasn’t a learning experience.” She added that the project “went extremely well” with “a lot of involvement from students.” Her said that the South Houses were “a limited access building, and that was clearly enforced.”

Smith added: “We increased security from Dec 15 to Jan 1,” during the move-in.

Khang-Keating said the background checks on the construction workers were, “the contractors’ responsibility to provide.”

Basketball team praises Quantum Hoops

Differential equations and quantum mechanics are subjects that Techers expect to learn. Some Techers are also learning to be the stars of a recent documentary that focuses on the basketball team.

Quantum Hoops tells the story of the men’s basketball team at Caltech.

“It’s the whole story of Caltech athletics well.”

Junior Yang Hai agreed with his teammate. “I liked it. It was a good movie and portrayed Caltech athletics well.”

Haussler explained that only 25-30% of the movie is basketball footage of the team and that most of the movie focuses on previous teams and the academic activities of the students.

Haussler thinks that the move may encourage more students in the future to play on the team, with the caveat that “it’s a very small population in the world that can come to Caltech and play basketball.”

The director of Quantum Hoops, Rick Greenwald, is still seeking distribution deals before an official release date can be announced.

The Tech is looking for new recruits

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.

We are looking for writers, photographers, layout editors, webpage designers, and creative minds to fuel Caltech’s weekly student publication.

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
Comics $14
Photos $5
I've seen spirit nights and pep small colleges and a variety of across the country at various I have had a full coaching career spirit night was to try and create original goal of the pep rally and off the stack…why not? The against our team, so anything plans, we were all for it and got in touch and told us their his pals. When the GSC group Dear Caltech Basketball Fans, -the week wouldn't be that bad. sinks--say, class and midterms- make finals look like a cakewalk. of exams, but with hours of class, we have almost the same amount the water. 10 weeks of relatively low-stress I think it's funny that parents are has been a source of strength for describes itself as a family. That favor. It makes sense. Our team tipped the scales in Tech's conversation with people around that in recent history there hasn't done. That was Duke-like, and create the big school atmosphere, proudest crowd I have ever gym was truly beyond compare. turned noctur -the week wouldn't be that bad. disenfranchised for such crimes as burglary and theft, but not for robbery or murder. When "Of course I am not saying that axe-murderers should vote... I am making the argument that we have a significant portion of our felons being disenfranchised for non-violent crimes." the Mississippi Supreme Court upheld this disenfranchisement a few years later, it cited the undisguised racial motivation. Louisiana, South Carolina, and Virginia quickly followed Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, and Virginia upheld raciness of lifetime voter in disenfranchisement. Yes, Florida, which went for Dubya six years ago by a mere 500 votes, wrong- ly denied the right to vote to as many as 100,000 citizens who had only committed misdemeanor- or had voting rights restored by other states, to say nothing of the number of people "rightly" denied the vote for being felons. How has this still not been ad- dressed? Of course I am not saying axe-murders should vote, even they should make up a signifi- cant portion of the demographic know as "significant portion" making the argument that we have a sig- nificant portion of our felons be- ing disenfranchised for non-vio- lent crimes, crimes that are more often committed by those with lower incomes. Not many high-income families will get people disenfranchised for crack, and I bet you don't see any CEOs being disenfranchised despite the brand. It seems to me that by disen- franchising felons we are un- intentionally reinstituting our racist past as a nation. Perhaps we can let other countries be our guide; of Western European nations, only Finland has a restricted vote for felons, and this only lasts for a few years. France and Germany allow Tech family was what helped us win twice this year, and we want all of you to know how much we actually appreciate it. We dedicated our first win to all the women who played before us and endured all the losses in a Caltech uniform. We hoped that our win would give them some satisfaction that Tech can compete and create the atmosphere of a big school. For us it was great to see them fevve the panicking…all because you put the pressure on them, you made the place loud and crazy, and you were our 6th player. And best of all, you did it without being mean and without name calling. You were just focused on your team. You were very loud, you were very proud, and you were a positively great part of the night. We love you, and now we know we have an edge when we are at home because we have the best fans in the SCIAC! Please keep coming back and keep being a part of it. Women's coach thanks fans

Dear Caltech Basketball Fans, On behalf of the women's basketball team here at Caltech, I want to thank each and every Tech that made the walk across campus to cheer us on. A special thanks goes to Evans Boney and his pals. When the GSC group got in touch and told us their plans, we were all for it and hoped they could really make it happen. Usually the odds are stacked against our team, so anything that knocks a couple bricks off the wall… why not? The original pep rally proposal and spirit night was to try and create the atmosphere of a big campus with an arena full of fans. Well, congratulations to everyone… it worked. And it worked big time! I have had a full coaching career across the country at various small colleges and a variety of levels of competition. I have seen big arenas, and small gyms, I've seen the high tops and pop rails in lots of states. But what happen Saturday night in our gym was truly beyond compare. That is the biggest, loudest, proudest crowd I have ever coached in front of, and for the players the best they have played in front of. The GSC students set out to create the big school atmosphere, and you all helped them get it done. That was Duke-like, and had our opponents ratified. In conversation with people around the conference, the consensus is that it is rare to see how there has been a SCAC crowd which has been so big or so much a part of a game itself in a crowd. Our opponent was doomed before the game ever started… they had to play live against a couple hundred! Our fans were the weight which tipped the scales in Tech's favor. It makes sense. Our team described in Tech's favor. That has been a source of strength for us when times were tough, and I am positive that is what we will do on when we have bad days ahead. Being a part of the bigger Caltech family was what helped us win twice this year, and we want all of you to know how much we actually appreciate it. We dedicated our first win to all the women who played before us and endured all the losses in a Caltech uniform. We hoped that our win would give them some satisfaction that Tech can compete and create the atmosphere of a big school. For us it was great to see them fevve the panicking…all because you put the pressure on them, you made the place loud and crazy, and you were our 6th player. And best of all, you did it without being mean and without name calling. You were just focused on your team. You were very loud, you were very proud, and you were a positively great part of the night. We love you, and now we know we have an edge when we are at home because we have the best fans in the SCIAC! Please keep coming back and keep being a part of it.
Commencement speaker advises to learn from past

Jared Diamond, geographer, historian, sociologist, anthropologist, biophysicist, and author, speaks or reads an impressively long list of twelve languages.

Although his current research is in geography and history, Diamond began his academic career in physiology and biophysics. In 1961 he earned a PhD from Cambridge, where his thesis research examined the biophysics of membranes.

Rather than having branched out from the original area of his research, Diamond feels that he has been driven in a deeper direction by the work of others. He enjoys that his research is not only his own, but that others have added to his work.

Diamond cited growing up during the World War II as a catalyst for his interest in military history, a subject that has remained relevant.

Shortly after graduating, Diamond began field work in ornithology in New Guinea. In Guns, Germs, and Steel he recounts how he went there, how he became interested, and how he got there.

Diamond considers today’s increasingly-connected global civilization to have more power than ever before, considering the high consumption of natural resources and rapidly-expanding technological expertise.

“Technology is a two-edged sword,” Diamond says. He cites wind generators as a positive use of modern technology, while bulldozers and chainsaws are rapidly-expanding technological experts.

In recent years, he has suggested the matchup of President Bush and Nobel Laureate biologist a range of such things as the Olympics, the Peloponnesian War, and Conan the Barbarian. Diamond has also been interested in bird watching from a youth.

It would be nice if we could have the future we want, Diamond said. It is the responsibility of government to want to have the future we want.

Carol Carmichael listens with the incoming students during the 2006 Frosh Camp. Carmichael grew up in Fort Atkinson, a small town outside of Madison, Wisconsin where she claims “no matter where I went, someone would call my mother in ten minutes if I was up to no good.”

“Being at Caltech is like being in a small town. If you do anything, someone will know about it. Pasadena is like a big midwestern town, and Caltech is like a small village.”

Carol Carmichael

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

A first look at the first lady: science buff and Beavers fan

By:MARISSA CEVALLOS

Though Dr. Carol Carmichael has been on campus for less than a year, the wife of newly-appointed president Jean-Lou Chameau hasn’t hesitated to jump into Caltech and Pasadena culture.

She’s a funky first lady, who has been spotted cheering for the Beavers in Caltech’s basketball stands, is just getting her feet wet.

The former director of the Institute for Sustainable Technology and Development at Georgia Tech, Carmichael has just as much scientific brawn as her presidential husband; in fact, the couple met while working on similar projects.

But Carmichael let the move to southern California take her in a new direction.

“I didn’t want to just work for me. I didn’t want to just repeat my work in Atlanta; it was an opportunity to do something new.”

Work found Carmichael a month ago when the mayor of Pasadena elected her as the first female advisor to the city’s civilian, non-military, non-advisory Commission, which is slated to help Pasadena live up to its status as the home of the United Nations Green Cities Declaration and Urban Environmental Partnership.

“It’s pretty exciting to be in Pasadena compared to Atlanta,” said Carmichael.

Dr. Diamond plans on using just English to deliver the keynote speech.

Dr. Diamond considers today’s in-creasingly-connected global civilization to have more power than ever before, considering the high consumption of natural resources, and rapidly-expanding technological expertise.

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The Shins release another praiseworthy album

BY: CINDY KO

The Shins-Wincing the Night Away (2007)

I have been Wincing the Night Away (2007) from their first two: still recognizably Shins, but not quite the same approach... The Shins don’t sound anything like a “new” band to me—it’s as if they were always hid in the 1960s and became discovered just recently.

“Musically, this album is a step sideways from their first two: still recognizably Shins, but not quite the same approach... The Shins don’t sound anything like a “new” band to me—it’s as if they were always hiding in the 1960s and became discovered just recently.”

The songs on Wincing sound a little Fab-Four, and this time deviate toward a more modern sound. Fewer tambourines, and more synthetic noise and key-boards, plus noticeably more pre- duced vocals make this album a bit jarring to the fans of the first two albums. However, there is something edgier and ballis in Wincing than The Shins have ever made before. Something is a little less silly about their lyrics, and a bit more about sharing young wisdom.

My favorite track on the album is “Sea Legs,” because it sounds very different from the normally happy-go-lucky flow of their songs. I also like a few mem- orable lines in their songs, one of which is: “The worst part is over, now get back on that horse and ride,” which I somehow interpret as the kind of advice that a big brother would hand down to you. I think that’s great—what other band can be entertaining and also manage to be an older sibling to you?

Overall, I welcome this new change in style, and I commend The Shins on Wincing the Night Away. Many bands get stuck in a rut, afraid to change their sound for fear of losing their audience, but The Shins have managed to make their change subtly and beautifully. It is my prediction that they will continue to be part of the college culture as it is cur- rently, and eventually become an icon band of our generation’s era.

Music Review

The Shins-Wincing the Night Away (2007)

The first two records brought The Shins a largely loyal grass- roots fan-base starting out from their hometown in Albuquer- que, New Mexico, to nationwide recognition, thanks to plenty of airplay and spots on several big movie soundtracks. It seems that this band has found their way into the hearts of every so-called “in- die”—short for “independent”—music enthusiast, including the wide galle of gen-x celebrities that act/write/direct (e.g. Zach Braff, The Garden State, 2004).

The Shins have made a name for themselves in the music world, with support from the college-age bracket at the bottom and from young Hollywood at the top. (Remember that time in The Garden State when Natalie Portman said that ‘a Shins song could change your life’? Now think about all those nerds who love Natalie Portman downloading that song and listening to it on loop for hours.)

Thus, it comes at no surprise that the recent Shins album was highly anticipated by their fans. Wincing the Night Away has been in the studio and on boards of students since it came out this winter, getting absorbed—one song at a time—into the modern twenty-something culture.

It has become an unavoidable part of any college movie and prime time, with support from the college culture as it is currently, and eventually become an icon band of our generation’s era.

TV Series Review

How I Met Your Mother is a Refreshing Laugh-Riot

BY: HARRISON STEIN

Sitcoms ruled the tube in the 1990’s, as Seinfeld, Friends and Frasier were among the most popular shows on television. However, in a primetime lineup dominated by action-packed thrillers (24 and Heroes) and dra- matic serials (Desperate Housewives and Grey’s Anatomy) there seems to be very little room for an old-fashioned thirty minute sitcom. Having avoided late night comedy since the cancella- tion of Fran, I never had any intention of surveying the current scene until I stumbled into a bril- liant new show on CBS.

Now in its second season on primetime, How I Met Your Mother is a throwback to the old days when TV shows had likeable characters, realistic situa- tions and were actually funny.

The show even has a unique premise to hook in viewers: in 2026, Ted Mosby (voiced by Bob Saget) is telling his two teenage kids the lengthy story of how he met their mother some- where around 2000. Ted talks as if he is a friend Barney, and parallel stories. The title character.

The rest of the show followed the trials and tribulations of the five characters as Ted journeys closer and closer to finding his future wife. Both the situations and the dialogue are completely believable. It is a lot of the rev- ersions are those you would have with your friends. For ex- ample, Ted and Robin get into a major fight because Robin in- sults Field of Dreams one of the things in life that Ted can’t stand. When Ted conveys this to Barney and Marshall, they begin recount- ing the movie and are reduced to tears. Similarly, while club hop- ping, Marshall lectures that fruity cocktails are taboos for men, even though they taste considerably better than beers.

Since it is a sitcom, the most critical component to how I Met Your Mother’s success is its hu- mor. And thanks to Neil Patrick Harris, the show never disap- points. Always dressed in a suit to convey to everyone else that he is the classiest guy in the joint who, in reality he is far from it, Barney’s catchphrase is “Suit Up.” Barney is habitual womanizer and in every episode he acts as the devil on Ted’s shoulder. In one episode, Barney tells Ted that he has to “pick someone up at the airport”, but when they arrive Ted realizes that Barney actually used the place as a fo- rum to pick up chicks.

The show is expertly orga- nized, as many episodes contain such clever plot mechanisms as multiple points of views, flash- backs, and parallel stories. The best episode so far, “The Pine- apple Incident” makes use of all three as Ted wakes up in bed after a night of heavy-drinking with a spanned ankle, another woman and a pineapple. Then, we slowly learn more and more about Ted’s wild night from various sources until a hilarious resolution.

However, past all of the humor, the show has a very sweet center and it’s this special warmth that separates the show from most of the schlock on the air. Ted is a most likeable protagonist and his experiences are both uplifting and heartbreakind. Through all the tri- als and tribulations, we sense true affection and tribulations, we sense true affection and friendship.

How I Met Your Mother is a comedy running on CBS.

Photo by Cindy Ko

Field of Dreams

I think I’m in love with you” on their very first date. At the very end of the episode Future Ted in- timates to his kids, “And this is the story of how I met your Aunt Robin,” meaning Robin is not the title character.

How I Met Your Mother is a refreshing laugh-riot

The new Shins album hurts so good.

The Shins release another praiseworthy album

Grade: A+

Musically, this album is a step sideways from their first two: still recognizably Shins, but not quite the same approach. The singer, James Mercer, always seemed to have a very “old-fashioned” voice, it’s a little yodelly and a little folky. When paired with the guitars, drums, keyboards, and tambourines, the band emanates a Beatle-esque vibe. I don’t know how else to describe it, but The Shins don’t sound anything like a “new” band to me—it’s as if they were always hiding in the 1960s and became discovered just recently.

The cringingly titled full-length album from The Shins is their third in a series of very successful musical efforts. Furthermore, it’s an outstanding follow-up to their first in 2001 (Oh, Inverted World, Subpop Records) and second in 2003 (Chutes Too Narrow, Sub-
Plummer swims to success at Caltech

Spurred on by fear of his own shadow, John Tsai bolts around the turn.

Mid-way through the 200m, Tenicia Lee realized that the faster she ran her race, the sooner she could return to polishing her hot pink spikes to an unprecedented level of splendor.

Caltech’s Men’s and Women’s track teams traveled to CSU Northridge to compete in an all-comers competition last Saturday, February 17. This meet served as a tune-up for the teams, which will begin SCIAC competition on March 3.

Heavy Techer workload.

“I would prefer to think of it as swimming keeping my life balanced because I can have three hours every day to escape from the pressures of Tech and to do something that I really love,” wrote Plummer.

Member of the men’s team, Calving Ting, said, “Diane is very dedicated to swimming. She’s hard core.”

At the same time, Plummer enjoys activities other than swimming. Aside from being involved in Fleming house activities, she likes swing dancing, playing foosball, and watching plays and musicals.

Matt Glassman slides safe into third base during a home game against Simpson, the first of the season.

2007 Baseball Results:
UC Santa Cruz: L, 7-3
UC Santa Cruz: L, 7-5
Occidental: L, 19-2
Occidental: L, 18-1
Occidental: L, 16-0

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Plummer had won 16 out of 24 individual races during the dual meets and finished second in six other races, significantly contributing to Caltech’s scoring. “She’s one of the rising stars of the women’s team,” said Coach Dodd.

But even an experienced swimmer like Plummer, who has swam competitively since she was eight, couldn’t help getting nervous over competing in the championship as well as during the dual meets.

Plummer wrote in an e-mail, “Swimming at a college conference meet was a new experience for me and I was pretty nervous, but I think that overall I performed well when it counted.”

Indeed, she did perform well when it counted, earning 12 points for the team as a result of her performance in the 400 L.M.

Throughout the season, Plummer succeeded in breaking six Caltech records in 200, 500, and 1000 yards freestyle, 200 and 400 yards I.M., and 200 yards breaststroke.

“Beating six records is quite amazing,” said Tim Curran, who currently holds the record in two of the men’s events.

To Plummer, however, beating the records isn’t the most important thing. She wrote, “[Swimming] has given me so many opportunities and I have made so many great friends because of it.” In fact, swimming has been such a huge part of her life that Plummer does not see it as an additional activity that only piles on top of the already heavy Techer workload.

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“I would prefer to think of it as swimming keeping my life balanced because I can have three hours every day to escape from the pressures of Tech and to do something that I really love,” wrote Plummer.

Member of the men’s team, Calving Ting, said, “Diane is very dedicated to swimming. She’s hard core.”

At the same time, Plummer enjoys activities other than swimming. Aside from being involved in Fleming house activities, she likes swing dancing, playing foosball, and watching plays and musicals.
Book Review: Guns, Germs and Steel

BY: HAMILTONY FALK

Last week it was announced that this year’s commencement speaker would be Jared Diamond, international best-selling profes-
sional salsa dancer and author. Since his first two occupations are top secret, he’ll likely talk about his book Guns, Germs and Steel, a novel that attempts to explain Eurasian dominance of the modern world by explaining their dominance in guns, large bipeds; germ, or infectious dis-
eases; and steel a movie in which Shaquille O’Neal plays a super
hero who fights crime in a metal suit. Many of you probably went and bought the book right away, and are planning to leave it sitting somewhere conspicuous because it makes you look smart, but perhaps some of you are still deciding if it’s worth buying. In order to help you decide whether to purchase the book (or read it if you already bought it for it’s stylist-
ish cover) I’ve decided to put the best mind at the California Tech to work reviewing it. Just wait un-
til you see all the information the acclaimed critic and scholar, me, reveals about Guns, Germs and Steel, and even if you don’t read it you will know enough to impress Diamond with snarky
comments during his speech.

To establish my credibility I should mention that I was a visit-
ing Professor of Literature and Sociology at Harvard for two years, a member of the American Society of Professional Journalists, and a New Review Guns, Germs and Steel (or ASPQRQGGS as it is more commonly known), I am a senior editor of Trust Me, I Know What I’m Talking About, quarterly, an international super-spy, professional salsa dancer and author. Since his first two occupations are top secret, he’ll likely talk about his book Guns, Germs and Steel, a novel that attempts to explain Eurasian dominance of the modern world by explaining their dominance in guns, large bipeds; germ, or infectious dis-
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comments during his speech.

Dinosaur Comics by Ryan North

Oh my god, I had the best sleep last night. The past few nights have been such a good sleep. Finally, I slept the best sleep of my life!

Therefore, I say, all downhill from here!

May, are you still fantasizing about that sleep?

waaat, what’s sweethearts? I’m not sure where that came from, I don’t normally call people sweethearts!

It’s alright! Myei is all right! We’re all just ordinary people, are we not?

HAPPY " CALL PEOPLE "SWEETHEARTS" DAY

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

PhD Comics by Jorge Cham

"Why I'm Not A Math Major" by Nick Boston

XKCD by Randall Munroe