FIRE RAZES SOUTH HOUSES; 50 INJURED

“The California Tech.

Students Simon Kornblith and Katie Shakman flee the inferno of the South Houses last weekend.

Table Tennis Places 14th In Nation

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“SDRAWKACB YROTSIH GNINRU” NO KEAPS OT GNIKWAB NEPETS

FAMED PHYSICIST TO LECTURE ON SPACETIME

BY MARK EICHENLAUB

World-renowned sports historian Stephen Hawking will give a mixed-up lecture on the origins of reverse-direction athletic competitions, entitled “Running History Backwards,” this Tuesday, April 3 at 8pm in Beckman Auditorium.

Dr. Hawking will also present his talk to Caltech undergraduates and graduate students Monday, April 2 at 4pm, because Caltech’s young scholars, “need their brainy-sleep and should not be kept up beyond their 9 o’clock bedtimes,” according to a girl who said she couldn’t go out with me for the same reason.

The lecture by the famed chef and author of bestseller “The Potatoo In A Nutshell” will speak on topics of spice and thyme. Those wishing admission will have to prove their devotion to the cause by jumping over a black Instant Dry Wall. And those who said she couldn’t go out with me for the same reason.

BY HAMILTON FALK

Criticisms of the fire alarm system in the South Houses have been silenced this weekend as those formerly making them feel a fire that damaged portions of all four South Houses.

Less than an hour after the initial fire was put out, another occurred that destroyed Fleming, Ricketts and Blacker, and just before the printing deadline of the Tech today another fire had started that seems likely to completely destroy Dabney and those parts of the SAC that were still standing.

There have been no reported deaths, although as many as 50 students remain in the hospi

pla after receiving first degree burns and suffering from smoke inhalation.

The first fire is believed to have been caused by students burning food in the kitchens, after an unopened package of ramen noodles was microwaved in a failed attempt to cook it. The second fire was caused by someone setting the fire alarm with a Frisbee, which set off the alarm, which for some reason caused another fire.

The third fire is believed to have been arson.

The fires quickly spread through the empty spaces above the rooms of the houses; asbestos insulation, suspected carcinogen, was removed from these spaces over the summer and replaced with newspapers and oil soaked rags.

Additionally, the fire department was delayed in getting to the fires because they were forced to park in the California parking structure after they were threatened with a ticket for eyeing a parking space in the sympathotron parking lot.

The fires have ‘renovated’ the reputation of those who support the installment of the extensive fire alarm system that has been in place in the house. The alarm system, which consisted of fire alarms in every room, including bathrooms and closets, and every 6 feet along hallways, that

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Preface

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FIRE RAZES SOUTH HOUSES; 50 INJURED
BY ANNA HISZPANSKI

Most farmers would agree: it’s tough to get more milk out of a cow while giving it less to eat. However, the Financial Aid Office managed to devise a solution.

When the institute-wide budget cuts were made last year, the Financial Aid Office cut the number of financial aid packages. Princeton was the first university to reduce student loans with grants, and Caltech, with $2,000 in work-study. Because freshmen cannot work their first term, they are saddled with debt. In 5 years, they will owe $3,500. In effect, the change reverses the trend of students’ grant aid with loans.

However, this change comes at a time when a couple of schools have been in the news for completely eliminating student loans from their aid packages. Recently, Princeton was the first university to replace student loans with grants, which was a substantial change for students who needed extra help. Since then a few schools have followed suit, eliminating aid for low-income students.

Davidson College made the announcement merely two weeks ago that it would be eliminating student loans completely from financial aid offers. Caltech in fact tried a similar strategy of reducing loans and increasing grants a few years ago, but the trend was unsustainable.

The current changes in financial aid packages were needed in part, because of the strain created on the financial aid budget by the increase of grants.

The campus String Quartet as well as a few artists will perform at the beginning of the event, followed by thirty minutes of discussion. These sessions will be squeezed in between. These sessions will not be your standard one hour lecture. The first half-hour will be the presentation, followed by thirty minutes of discussion, where students are free to ask questions and voice concerns in a comfortable setting.

Former ARC Secretary and Co-Chair for the Chemistry-Chemi- cal Engineering Conference Ekta Bhogwani says, “If you have a problem with the way, you can bring it to the faculty, the place to go to fix it.” She cites the changes to Bl1 as one of the most notable changes to the ARC.

Announcements:

“Pitch Perfect” Ignites campus performance

BY NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

Peter Schickele, a renowned composer, performer, and satirist, will hold a concert on Monday, April 9th, 4:30-5:30pm in the Wildman Room with his music performed by the Armadillo String Quartet as well as guest artists. The concert, free to public, will comprise of Schicke- le’s After Hearing Bach, Quintets for Piano & Strings Nos. 1 & 2, and Chappo for piano six hands.

Schickele, who has composed over 150 vespers works, is also rec- ognized for his satiric works under pseudonym P.D.Q. Bach, a forgotten and least liked son of Johann Sebastian Bach. The music writ- ten by P.D.Q. Bach, which is often performed by university ensembles like kazoo, slide whistle, balloons, lasso d’ambre, and bicycles, often viewed as work that has been forgotten by 2000s, will be performed during the concert.

The internship, supported by friend of Arnold O. Beckman, will pay a stipend of $6,000. It allows a selected intern to spend the summer working in the office of a politician or a government agency, and to see from the inside the process of government. The applicant is expected to make arrangements with the appropri- ate political persons or organiza- tions. The internship is open to any Caltech undergraduate or graduate who intends to be a student here next year. If interested, submit a pro- posed arrangement and information about the internship to Schickele and the Armadillo String Quartet will give a lecture on April 9th at 4:30 pm in Dabney Lounge, also open to all Caltech students.

Caltech has been, and continues to be need-blind, which means

to parents worried about rising costs of college: “The numbers will continue to go up, but the grants will go up, too. Colleges are in the business of educating students so they can’t price them- selves out of the market.”

Two important factors to con- sider, Busse says, is whether or not a school has need blind ad- mission and whether it meets 100% of a student’s demonstrat- ed need. Caltech, he notes, does both and is only one of about 20 schools in the country that meets 100% of demonstrated need.

“Caltech has been and contin- ues to be need-blind, which means

to students and faculty to discuss aca- demic issues and possible changes that need to be made. President Chameau and Provost Jennings will hold a town hall meet- ing, along with many members of the faculty. The Academic and Research Committee (ARC) is largely responsible for this confer- ence, and ARC Chair Caleb Cechen will be there to open the conference.

BY RAM KANDASAMY

Classes will be canceled on April 5th. Although it won’t be Ditch Day (that’s always tomorrow), this Thursday is when the Student-Faculty Conference will be held. This all-day event at Ramo Auditorium allows the stu- dents and faculty to discuss aca- demic issues and possible changes that need to be made. President Chameau and Provost Jennings will hold a town hall meet- ing, along with many members of the faculty. The Academic and Research Committee (ARC) is largely responsible for this confer- ence, and ARC Chair Caleb Cechen will be there to open the conference.

Four professors are among the major forums for the student body’s academic-related concerns.

The day will begin with talks about the Honor Code and the quality of life, followed by talks on the core curriculum and ev-

Financial aid still going strong

Even after budget cuts, Caltech is still best value for private universities

BY ANNA HISZPANSKI

Caltech’s figures in the Kiplinger survey: according to the survey, the average annual cost of Caltech after applying non- need based aid is $11,777. Most of Caltech’s competitors’ figures are over $40,000.

Even after budget cuts, the campus String Quartet as well as a few artists will perform at the beginning of the event, followed by thirty minutes of discussion. These sessions will be squeezed in between. These sessions will not be your standard one hour lecture. The first half-hour will be the presentation, followed by thirty minutes of discussion, where students are free to ask questions and voice concerns in a comfortable setting.

Announcements:

By Friday of the week before publication. All letters and submissions should be submitted electronically as Microsoft Word documents to “Letters” as the subject line to business@caltech.edu.

The Tech is published weekly except during the summer when it is published monthly. Inquiries about advertising should be submitted electronically as Microsoft Word documents to “Business” as the subject line to business@caltech.edu.

BY RAM KANDASAMY

The Tech welcomes student and faculty submissions. Letters and submissions are welcome; e-mail addresses should be included with submissions. All letters and submissions should be submitted electronically as Microsoft Word documents to “Letters” as the subject line to business@caltech.edu.

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in ‘direct bilateral communication’. No one was hurt and nothing was damaged during the protest.

**TECHNOLOGY**

Blind to see videos

IBM is soon to launch a browser it has designed to make audio and video content accessible to the visually impaired people. The software, which has been nicknamed A-browzer, short for Accessibility-Browser, was created by a blind employee - Dr Chieko Asakawa - in Japan.

IBM hopes that the A-browser will allow blind people the same control over multimedia that everybody else has using a mouse.

IBM said that it will be available later this year, most probably for free. Dr. Asakawa was inspired by her increasing frustration in being unable to access huge amounts of web content.

The screen readers and self-talking browsers that are currently in use are not able to handle situations involving audio and video animation especially when it starts playing as soon as the page loads. Using the A-browser, a visually-impaired person has greater control over media content using pre-defined shortcuts.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

NY Chocolate Jesus exhibit cancelled

An art gallery in New York cancelled an exhibit of a chocolate sculpture of Jesus Christ after protests by a group US Catholics.

The exhibit is a naked sculpture of Jesus Christ standing six-feet tall with its arms outstretched. It was designed by Cosimo Cavallari. It was to be displayed was to have been displayed Monday, April 2, at Manhattan’s Lab Gallery.

The timing caused a protest because it is the week of Easter. The Housing Smith Hotel that houses the Lab Gallery cancelled it after the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights called for a boycott.

Compiled from BBC, CNN, New York Times

**BUSINESS**

WTO opposed to US gambling ban

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is against the US gambling ban because a certain US legislation targets only offshore based gambling websites. The WTO said that the US could resume blocking such websites only if these legislations were equally applied to US companies that offer off-track betting on horse racing.

The application against this US law was taken to the WTO by the twin-island Caribbean nation Antigua and Barbuda. A host of online gambling firms are based there.

**SPORTS**

Gators top Bruins – Part II

The Gators of University of Florida beat the Bruins of UCLA 76-66, Saturday, March 31. As thefinals left the court, looking dazed, at 61-45 in favor of the Gators, the scene could just be a replay from last April. Same opponent, second year!

The Gators’ victory against the Bruins sets them up in a match against Ohio State on Monday evening at the Georgia Dome. Last year Ohio State lost to the Gators 86-60.

**ASCRT minutes: New DVDs for library**

Officers Present: Chris Gonzales, Mike Grinolds, Andrea Dubin, Angela Zah, Ekta Bhajwani, Patrick Herrington, Daryl Coleman, Zack Highiee

Officers Absent: Mike Woods, Caleb Ng

Guests: Yan Zhang, Dan Lo, Justin Chen

*Funding*

- We are still running on last BoD’s budget until April 1st
- Yan asks for $500 for the quiz bowl for the dunk tank, but Professors have requested booths.
- 35 clubs have contacted Andrea du and helmets) as well as a loner long board.
- Justin Chen and Dan Lo from the long board club have asked for $76.50 for the tournament on the 30th and combining it with Make a Difference Day. Approved 5-0-0.
- Justin Chen and Dan Lo from the long boarding club asked for $300 to start up their new club. They would like to purchase safety equipment (3 sets of pads and helmets) as well as a loner long board. Approved 5-0-0

*Club fair at prefrosh weekend.*

- Club fair will be on April 8th. 5-0-0.
- The meeting for Club funding will be on April 8th. This is Easter Sunday. The new proposal forms will be out tonight.

Andrea Dubin
ASCRT Secretary

**Learn to Fly!**

Caltech/JPL Aero Club

For more information go to: http://aeroscaltech.edu or email club VP/end instructor Joe Areeda (Joe@redbull.com)

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**SPORTS**

**APRIL 1, 2007**

**Table tennis goes to nationals**

The women’s table tennis team placed 14th in the nation last weekend at the National College Table Tennis Championship Tournament at Ohio State University.

The team was invited to participate in this National tournament based on their performance in the Southern California Regionals. Pauline Ku, Radhika Marathe, Jiaqi Guo, and Janet Sheung participated in both the regionals and the national tournament.

Michael Woods, an avid table tennis player who served as one of the team’s coaches, said that he was surprised the team made it to the Nationals since they competed against some strong teams.

UC San Diego and USC also made nationals, making Southern California the most represented region with three teams.

The team plans on returning to nationals next year, but Jiaqi noted, “We need more recruits.”

**Table tennis goes to nationals**

**BY MARISSA CEVALLOS**

Caltech’s water polo women had no choice but to get an intense workout last Thursday against the vacationing Harvard Crimson.

Caltech had only one sub. “It’s really depressing when the other team subs out their entire team and we only have one,” said Erin White, who has played on the team for two years.

But despite the dismal 17-2 score, no one on the team would agree that the game was a knock-out.

“We played a lot tougher than the score indicates,” said Christine Parry.

“We just played a really tough team,” said Chelsea Sharon, a team captain. “Some of the girls were like trees."

Parry and Sharon made Caltech’s two goals in the second half, after recovering from a 7-0 halftime. Co-captain Preetha Sinha had more than a few close attempts at the goal, but was consistently blocked by Harvard’s San Diego goalie.

And despite the attempts of Caltech’s seasoned goalie Becky Streit to block the Crimson, Harvard’s slick offense had little problem maneuvering the ball for more scores after score. Caltech’s only saving grace was its defense. In a game where Caltech forced twelve kick-outs—a flagrant foul—one of our main strengths as a team.

Though the team doesn’t even have enough players to keep the bench warm, Parry is able to point to one benefit to having a small roster.

“I know how every teammate plays,” said Parry. “We’re more trusting as a team than we used to be.”

But despite the home pool advantage, Caltech couldn’t count on the Cambridge team, which plays indoors all season, to be distracted by the southern California sunlight.

“Just about all of our girls are from California,” said Harvard team captain Lauren Snyder. “A few are from the LA area.”

Perhaps Harvard’s earlier losses to Cal Baptist, Redlands, and Pomona spurred them to win at least one game—and definitive—before heading back to the East coast after spring break.

Surprisingly, Caltech wasn’t the only team with scientists in the pool.

“About half of the girls on our team are bio-chem or pre-meds,” said Synder.

**Caltech topples Trojans 11-10**

**BY DAVID CHEN**

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Each team played four singles matches and one doubles match. Each match is based on five sets, with a set won at 11 points. More details on the tournament are available at http://www.buck-eyettc.com/nctta2007/.

Registration fees, and Tom Manley covered the registration fees, and Tom Manley covered the airfare. ASCIT covered the registration fees, and Tom Manley provided for the hotel.

**Table tennis goes to nationals**

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GAYpril Events

Make a Difference Day:
Saturday, March 31st
All day
Sign Up through the Caltech Y

GAYpril Ice Cream Kick Off
Free Ice Cream, Ally pins and Resources
Monday, April 2nd
11:00-2:00pm
Near C-Store

Friends for Life: A Night of Comedy
Tuesday, April 3rd
8:00pm
The Laugh Factory

LGBTQ & Allies Discussion Group
Tuesday, April 3rd & 17th
7:30-9:30pm
Health and Counseling Center
Conference Room

Prism Coffee Hour
Wednesday, April 4, 11, 18 & 25th
3:00-4:00pm
The Red Door Café

“Genetics of Sex Determination and Sexual Orientation”
Keynote Lecture and Dinner with Eric Vilain, M.D., Ph.D.,
UCLA Center for Society and Genetics
Tuesday, April 10th,
5:30pm, Guggenheim 101 (Lees-Kubota Hall)
RSVP for dinner to caltech.pride@gmail.com

Dinner and a Movie: “Another Gay Movie”
Friday, April 13th
7:00pm
2nd Floor Center for Student Services

Day Hike
Saturday, April 14th
10:00 am
Switzer Falls
RSVP required...limited spaces!

LGBTQ Graduate Student Social Hour
Friday, April 20th
7:00-8:00pm
The Rathskeller

Pre-frosh Club Fair
Saturday, April 21st
4:00-5:30pm
Olive Walk

Clubbing in West Hollywood
The Abbey & Here Lounge
Saturday, April 21st
9:00pm
Meet @ San Pasqual and Wilson
Please RSVP

LGBTQ Film Series:
“Saving Face”
Tuesday, April 24th
7:00pm
2nd Floor Center for Student Services

For Questions or RSVP please email PRISM
at caltech.pride@gmail.com

To subscribe to our anonymous e-mail lists, please visit
rainbow.caltech.edu

Partially funded by: GSC, ASCIT, Caltech Dining Services, PRISM, Student Affairs and the Women’s Center.
Hot off-campus picks absent from lottery

Batrice and Flatland get the boot from Housing; will be used for grad or faculty

By Daniel Rowlands

Housing has decided to re-shuffle its properties again, and this year two of the most popular off-campus unaffiliated locations have been removed from the unaffiliated lottery.

The houses at 555 S. Catalina and 240 S. Michigan, commonly known as Batrice and Flatland, will be removed during the summer and then used as furnished housing for new and visiting faculty.

In previous years, these houses went to people with the top several picks and the groups of people they pulled in as housemates (ten to twelve people for Batrice and six for Flatland). Even before Batrice was longer used, it housed undergrads. According to one of this year’s Batrice residents, Fedor Manin, he once got to meet an alum from the sixties who had lived in Batrice as an undergrad and said that, at the time, “the house used to be rented out by a professor’s wife or something.”

Despite the fact that Batrice and Flatland have been among the first places picked in the unaffiliated lottery, Batrice was half full two years ago and again this year after a number of residents moved into the South Houses second term. Flatland has also been incompletely filled for the last two years.

However, Marie Lara, Housing Office Assignments Coordinator, indicated that this was not the reason for removing them from the lottery: she said one of the reasons for the change was a wish to concentrate the undergraduate students in the same part of campus along with a need to provide more faculty and post-doctoral housing.

As part of the process of moving all undergraduate housing closer together, they have been replaced with the thirty rooms in Braun House. Twenty rooms of which were Ricketts and Fleming off-campus alleys during the South House renovation and graduate student housing before that. Housing has been reassigning properties to different groups since the 2004 merger of the formerly independent offices of graduate, undergraduate, and faculty housing. Marks and Braun Houses were transferred from grad student to undergraduate use. Two faculty houses were assigned to grad students and this year, Batrice and Flatland will most likely be made into faculty housing. It is intended that Marks and Braun will remain unaffiliated undergraduate housing permanently.

Nine rooms in Marks are assigned in an early process for grad students and a similar process may be instituted in Braun in the future, but the rest of the rooms will be available in the general unaffiliated lottery and available to all undergraduates. If there are residents in the houses, Housing may add more spaces to the undergraduate housing pool, possibly including returning Flatland and Batrice to undergraduate use.

Lottery Options

Avery also has an internal lottery for eighty-three spaces open to current residents and early picks at rooms in the undergraduate lottery.

The house at 555 Catalina, commonly known as Batrice, was one of the most popular off-campus picks before Housing removed it from the undergraduate lottery.

In Short

Batrice (555 Catalina) and Flatland (240 S. Michigan) won’t be in the undergraduate lottery.

Marks and Braun will permanently add 30 rooms for undergrads.

Batrice and Flatland will go to graduate students or faculty.

The off-campus lottery for students who do not wish to live in their House, Housing guarantees a room in Avery or nearby for five spaces, in Avery will be available for the unaffiliated lottery. Avery is different from other off-campus housing in that it is a House with its own culture and in that undergrads are alongside grad students and several faculty members in residence. As a House, Avery has a number of social activities for residents to participate in if they wish. Unlike other off-campus housing locations, Avery can only be opened by ID card, not key or mechanical combination, but Tim Chang indicated that arrangements could be made for students with religious objections to key cards to get keys. Residents of Avery are required to be on the Avery board plan, which consists of $1305 of declining balance (declining balance can be used to pay for House dinners).

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

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Students listen to a guest speaker over lunch at the Athenaeum at the 2007 Scholars Luncheon, where students meet the donors of their named scholarships.
The question whether the Damage Fund should be eliminated still hovers unanswered by the Student Housing Committee.

Master of Student Houses Cathy Jurca feels removing the fund would reduce the amount of damage done by the students since the students responsible for the damage would be directly charged.

By having the Damage Fund, “the Institute pays students not to commit damage,” wrote Jurca in an email. “Or alternatively, it gives Houses a pre-paid account to use to commit damage...neither of these views is in keeping with the principle of stewardship.”

Kevin Watts, the chair of the Stewardship Committee, disagrees. Watts, former Superintendent of Lloyd, argues that the Damage Fund is a significant incentive for students to keep the damages to the minimum. Currently, the money remaining in the fund at the end of the year is given to the RAs of the houses and is used for social activities.

“If we don’t reduce the damages, we won’t be able to have some of the social events that we have,” said Watts.

If the Damage Fund is eliminated, the students responsible for damage would be directly charged. The Student Housing Committee had already voted to eliminate the fund, yet there is lack of consensus between the members of the Student Affairs. The recent fiasco with the broken gate in the South Houses and the disagreement between the administration and the students over who should pay for the repairs has had a significant part in advancing the proposal.

Ken Libbrecht, the head of the Student Housing Committee, recognizes the need to reduce the amount of damage done by students. “You can’t not break anything, because that’s just no fun,” said Libbrecht, “but it’d be nice to keep it down to a dull roar.” According to Libbrecht, the change in the policy would have a very limited affect on the students. While the house dues may go up to provide the houses the money needed to compensate for the lack of Damage Fund, the difference in dues is not expected to be very significant.

Libbrecht said, “Students end up paying anyway. [Taking away the fund] is more of a behavior modification through charging people differently. It does help to charge students directly – it would get people to notice more the damage that is done.”

While the fate of the Damage Fund remains undecided, the possibility of its elimination will have direct effects on some of the end-of-the-year activities that take place at Tech.

Ditch Day, for example, may suffer the consequences. “Seniors have the least incentive to clean up if they make a mess, and it’s much more likely for the damage fund to be eliminated if they act irresponsibly,” said Watts. “So we probably will have to start billing seniors more heavily this year.”

Currently, there are many occasions upon which the Houses choose to fix the damage without using the Damage Fund. The Student Affairs may choose to keep the Damage Fund but will require the Houses to use it to pay for all damages. In addition, the total amount charged for damages, as well as the house by house break-down, would be closely monitored by the administration.

According to Watts, concerns are not limited to just the financial aspect of the proposal. “Students have been entrusted with stewardship for houses, and taking the damage fund away just gives us less freedom and control of the houses,” said Watts.

The fate of the Damage Fund will be made before the end of the academic year by the Student Housing Committee. The committee, largely comprised of faculty members, also includes two undergraduate representatives, who will be selected by the IHC.
**Hawking**

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Tegular over all topologically trivial metrics can be done by time slicing and so is unitary when analytically continuing to the Lorentzian. On the other hand, the path integral over all topologically non-trivial metrics is asymptotically independent of the initial state. Thus the total path integral is unitary and information is not lost to the total path of the initial state. Thus the claims Hawking, smiling like a little angel.

**Fires**

Continued from Page 1

were capable of emitting a sound loud enough to shatter souls, as well as flashing strobe lights and a klaxon sound audible outside of the houses, was criticized because of its tendency to go off every few hours.

There were also complaints that burnt food, blue trauma to any of the fire alarms, and extremely spicy salads all tended to set off the fire alarm, and the only way to turn off the system was through extensive use of prayer. In retrospect these measures were not enough, and future plans to rebuild the houses will include a sprinkler system or perhaps a method of constructing the houses entirely out of ice.

**Favre**

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the phenotypic effects of being half man and half god suggested that the football had exceeded the speed of light and thus had moved backward in the time dimension due to relativistic effects.

After the football was confirmed to have been thrown back in time, Favre admitted that he had experienced similar circumstances in high school while attempting to pitch for the baseball team. His pitches would routinely disappear with a popping sound, convincing him that God wanted him to play football.

Scientists hypothesize that because Favre is such a great American he unconsciously threw the football in a direction that would result in it impacting Hitler's head, although Favre says he was just throwing it out there, with no more aim than he would have during a playoff game.

Said one ESPN commentator, anonymously due to previous embarrassing statements: “I’m not surprised at this. Favre is such a gun-slinger, he’s always taking risks and exceeding expectations. People said you couldn’t exceed the speed of light, but people also said Favre would never win a Super Bowl, and he just kept proving them wrong.”

He added, “Killing Hitler has got to rate right up there with finally winning the big game; it’ll be pretty much impossible to keep Favre out of the Hall of Fame now.”

Stephen Hawking tickets to his annual Caltech talk, which reliably fills Beckman Auditorium fuller than a Universe in a nutshell.