**SFC brings new ideas to table**

**Biannual conference addressed classes, honor system, student life**

**BY RAM KANDASAMY**

Addition of a third Honor System top student officer, design of an undergraduate bioengineering major, and creation of student-run classes were some of the many ideas proposed at the biannual Student-Faculty Conference last Thursday. Co-chair of the put on websites, and divisions are planning on having separate collaboration policies.

There was much discussion on how to get the faculty BoC representative to become more involved. Another major proposal covered the establishment of a bioengineering option for under-graduates, discussed at the Undergraduate Education session. Although a graduate bioengineering program has already been completed, it appears bioengineering will not become an undergraduate option until a few years from now. Bioengineering student representatives on the HSS committee and HSS committee members of the EE/CS department have yet resulted from last year's meetings. The topics that would have been successful in past years has been useful. Committee for Undergraduate Research member Anna Hiszpanski said, “Approximately 81% of students have sought research opportunities and 95% of the faculty respondents had mentored summer research.” However, she felt there was certainly room for improvement, considering Caltech’s 5 to 1 student ratio. However, someone is guaranteed a summer at Caltech doing research. The survey indicated that “24% of students who looked for research opportunities were unsuccessful in finding them.” But despite the grim statistic, Hiszpanski and others are optimistic that action will be taken. “It was very excited and encouraged by their [faculty’s] comments,” said Hiszpanski.

The presentation on Quality of Life generated quite a stir, at least because it encourages students to give their thoughts and show their opinion matters. According to ARC Chair Caleb Ng, “the representatives were approved by the Faculty Board in 2005, but since have gone nowhere.” Other discussions centered around a proposed plan to institute a new elected ASCIT position, the Honor Chair, which was very excited and encouraged by their [faculty’s] comments, “I think it’s important that faculty and students continue to work together on these issues,” Marathe said, “as the conference day requires a follow-up schedule to check if the proposed changes will actually happen.” However, although the SFC in past years has been successful in making similar changes, such as the revamping of the Bi 1 curriculum, said Marathe, “in essence, I believe this process needs to continue somehow beyond the scope of the SFC, which is a biannual event.” She cited a halted HSS proposal for courses in linguistics from a few years ago as an example of a topic that would have benefited from student-faculty discussions outside of the SFC. Although no conclusive changes have yet resulted from last Thursday’s meetings, the topics discussed in SFC can lead to further discussions between faculty and students, which help to bring about significant changes.

**In This Issue**

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**Movie Reviews:**

*Namesake* a delight

*Grindhouse* delightfully ridiculous

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**SFC evokes mixed feelings**

**Women’s basketball: forecast bright**

**Hobos are scary**

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**For more SFC coverage, please see editorials on Page 2:**

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**Cancelling classes too unrealistic for SFC**

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**SFC repeats history**

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**Stafis and faculty watch a presentation at the SFC on Thursday, which attracted more than 100 students.**

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**Grindhouse**

and women’s team traveled to see in January, when both the men’s and women’s team played their last season. The film delves into the history of the basketball team, including interviews with the last basketball team to win a SCIAC game.
SFC repeats history

Caltech ignores its greatest strengths: small classes, potential for interaction

BY DANIEL POON

Last Thursday we had a day off for the SFC. Initially I went for the full day off and walked out of the meetings thinking the situation was symptomatic of a worse problem than it is.

When I asked one of the conference committees what was going to be done about the ideas that had been raised at the public SFC hearings, I learned much to my chagrin that many of the SFC committees would probably not be meeting again until the next convention 2 years later. Instead, a report would be written, and if you're anything like a last-minute Techer, you might have skipped the conference to finish a problem set due Thursday after- noon. I can appreciate the prob- lem the ARC must have faced in scheduling, but it's probably not worth it. Any commitment involves some sac- rifice, and if the SFC, the sac- rifice was hidden beneath a bribe to avoid class. There's no way to dodge free time, only ways to pri- oritize your own schedule.

Marissa Cavallaro
Editor-in-Chief

Prefrosh Weekend: “Almost their entire lives."

BFY CRAIG MONTOURI

Prefrosh Weekend is in a week and a half. We’re expect- ing somewhere between 250 and 275 prospects to arrive be- tween Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning and stay un- til either Friday morning or afternoon. Unlike previous years, we’re returning to the regular length Prefrosh Weekend, which carries over into the Prefrosh Week- end. It should be a lot of fun.

While last term, I briefly looked at the Associated Students will not be on campus Prefrosh Weekend, I’ve seen from Techers over the past decade, if not the end. It should be a lot of fun. Prefrosh W eekend: “Their (almost) Here!”

Conjure 25-hour days, but the problem is that current students are not interested in what the Associated Students are promoting. We’re trying to give the impression of being the best possible class if current students are actively working against the inter- ests of the student body. This means that the Associated Students will not be on campus Prefrosh Weekend. I’ve seen from Techers over the past decade, if not the end. It should be a lot of fun. Prefrosh W eekend: “Their (almost) Here!”

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ASCIT Minutes: April 4, 2007

Social team discusses upcoming events

Officers Present: Chris Gonzales, Mike Grinolds, Andrea Dubin, Angela Zabi, Ekta Bhojwani, Mike White, Caleb Ng, Patrick Herrera, Daryl Coleman, Zack Higbee

Guests: Russell McLellan

*Budget stuff*

- The receipts Angela put in on Friday weren’t processed on the old budget, so all submitted receipts were charged to the new budget. Everything needs to be re-submitted, so it might take a little while. Jon Senn is looking into what happened to money charged to students for ASCIT Formal.

*Social team*

- There will be a midnight dunk carnival. The cost will cover $1500 for the prefrosh weekend on Thursday night. Ekta wants during this. It will probably be nuts during prefrosh weekend, so we want to have fireworks. We need to start thinking about money. We have $4000 set aside for it. Jon Senn is looking into a Yuri’s night party. They want to turn Ricketts TND into a Yuri’s night party. They will make up a budget, then ask ASCIT, GSC, Alumni foundation, and the Y for money.

- The ASCIT amplifier disappeared during the move from the mods to the houses. A high quality amp will cost around $2500. There’s a MHF funding deadline coming up soon, so we will try to apply for funding. Someone on social team will write it.

- The date for interhouse next year will be on December 1st. Each of the 4 parties will get $7500 each, but we want to increase the amount of money. The party will cost around $35k. Tom Mannion will give us $10k, another alum will give us $10k, but we still need to raise quite a bit of money. We have $4000 set aside for it. We need to start thinking of avenues to raise more money. We will still have a barbecue in the late afternoon. The idea was brought up to raise ASCIT dues.

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**Funding Request**

- Russell requested funding for a Yuri’s night party on April 12. They want to turn Ricketts TND into a Yuri’s night party. They will make up a budget, then ask ASCIT, GSC, Alumni foundation, and the Y for money. We have $4000 set aside for it. We need to start thinking of avenues to raise more money. We will still have a barbecue in the late afternoon. The idea was brought up to raise ASCIT dues.

- Another idea proposed was the possibility of getting sponsorship by having company names on shirts. Ekta, Gonzos, Mike, and Tom will have a meeting to discuss this.

- ASCIT Formal: A place hasn’t been found to have formal at. Ekta suggested that we should start booking places for future years because most places require to be booked years in advance. Formal will be May 26th. We want to keep cost to students around $35, which means that we have about a $20k budget.

- *Budget stuff*

- There have been complaints that the BoD is sending out to many emails to ug-list. -The BoD should make sure that what they are sending out is relevant to their position, and limit the emails to one per week.

- Currently the feeling is that students who wish to walk will need to graduate within one term (36-45 units). -Survey results were overwhelmingly supportive of the change. -The ASCIT ministration at the faculty board meeting on Monday.

- Interviews for BoD appointed committees will be this Sunday at 11am

- *signups*

- Signups for committees will be coming down on Sunday evening most likely. -ASCIT, GSC, Alumni foundation, and the Y for money.

- Walking at commencement -John Hall will give a presentation at the faculty board meeting on Monday.

- Interviews for BoD appointed committees will be this Sunday at 11am

- *Directory emails*

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After a season in which the women’s basketball team turned so many heads by winning their first SCIAC games ever, one player and another honoree that had never before been bestowed: junior Rene Davis, named to the SCIAC All-Conference Team.

In the history of the Caltech athletics program, the honor has been given to only two women in other sports.

In addition to making the All-Conference 2nd Team, Davis finished the season with a double-double, averaging double digits in two categories: rebounds and points scored per game. However, in speaking with the 5 foot 9 inch junior point guard with hair shaped into a Mohawk, one perhaps would not realize the magnitude of her accomplishments. Humbled about her achievements, she says she’s “not that great of a basketball player” and credits her team with her success. When told that The Tech would write an article about her accomplishments, she asked that it be about the team instead.

“It’s a team sport. I know that during the game I got a lot of rebounds, but rebounds don’t happen unless people box-out other people,” said Davis. “So even though I get the stat, it’s really a whole team thing.”

Davis’ coach, Sandra Marbut, says Rene’s team player attitude is apparent whenever she is on or off the court.

“Rene should be a role model for a lot of the professional athletes who have been here,” said Marbut. “She’s very aware she can’t do it by herself. I think she’s very appropriately humble, and that defines great leadership on her part.”

Rene is such a great example that will benefit players for years to come.

While winning the award is an achievement for Davis, she interpreted the recognition in a different way.

“Receiving the award was kind of like a thank you. It makes me feel like people have deserved it in the past, but [the conference] never acknowledged us until the year Rene Davis dribbles around her defender.

That’s what makes Rene Rene,” said Davis. “For me, it didn’t change how well my season went, what I did, or what the team did... It’s so obvious that the award wasn’t about me. The biggest thing is that they finally put someone from our team on [the All-Conference Team]. That’s really what the award was.

While Davis’ season was the best of her career, it was not without struggles either. Davis played with a shoulder injury— a torn labrum— nearly the entire season.

“She really played through pain,” said Marbut. “She’s very driven on the court during practice and games... Its incredible,” agreed teammate junior Meghan Kelleher. “She always gives 110% and in turn inspires everyone else on the team to work just as hard as she does. It’s so nice playing with someone who is such a great leader and who you trust to lead the team.”

Keeping herself active in and out of the basketball season, Davis has been involved with the volleyball and the track and field teams since her freshman year. She competes in over ten track and field events, ranging from discus and high jump to running the 200 meter and the 4x4. Davis is currently rehabilitating her shoulder, which is keeping her from many field events like shot put this year and will keep her from playing volleyball next year, as well.

But, according to Davis, basketball is where her true passion lies. She’s already looking forward to next year to show the other teams in the conference that Caltech’s two SCIAC game wins this season were not a fluke.

“It’s really frustrating for our team... We work really hard— probably harder than everyone in conference—and then when we show them that we’re good enough to play with them, they still don’t believe it,” said Davis, referring to the fact that other teams are still schedule a third game with Caltech next season. Typically, two conference games in a week is considered a full week.

However, Davis uses the debacle of other teams as a motivator to succeed even more next season.

“Being an underdog and knowing you can shock people is motivating,” she said. “It’s incredible,” agreed teammate junior Meghan Kelleher. “She always gives 110% and in turn inspires everyone else on the team to work just as hard as she does. It’s so nice playing with someone who is such a great leader and who you trust to lead the team.”

According to Davis, the team’s collective dedication is a key to its success.

“Our team is very different than almost every sport other team has,” said Davis. “The girls on the team are my best friends... We go work with foster children at a class that has come in has fit in very well.”

Davis largely credits her coach for the team’s cohesiveness.

“It’s a lot of reason why our team is so close is because of our coach. She’s amazing,” said Davis. “She’s there for us whether we’re upset about school or boys or anything. If I was ever arrested I don’t know why I ever would be—I would probably call my coach. That’s the kind of person she is... She will never ask us to work harder than she’s working.”

The respect Davis has for Marbut appears to be mirrored in Marbut’s and her respect for Rene.

“Rene is such a great example. I am incredibly honored and feel like it is a gift to get to work with people who are amazing in all the ways on the team.”

Both Davis and Marbut are looking forward for Rene to have her senior season as a senior. Marbut says losing Davis when she graduates will be difficult. Rene currently includes three of the five seniors so basketball fans have much to look forward to as well.

“Rene is the team,” said Marbut. “She has brought us so much this year and I don’t think that’s the case with anyone on our team, especially Rene,” said Davis.

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Biotechnology and Human Rights: Industry’s Responsibility?

At KGI’s 2007 Bioethics Symposium, a distinguished group of academic, industry and media leaders will consider the biotechnology industry’s human rights obligations. The day-long program is free and open to the public. Refreshments, lunch, parking and reception are included.

DATE
April 17, 2007

TIME
8:30 am to 5:30 pm
Reception following the program

LOCATION
Keck Graduate Institute
535 Watson Drive
Claremont, CA 91711
Building 517
Lecture Hall

MAP AND DIRECTIONS
www.kgi.edu

RSVP (909) 607-7892
or events@kgi.edu
The source text is a rich, engaging discussion woven with insights and analyses of popular culture. It's a testament to the depth of understanding and the passion for the subject matter that the author brings to the table. The words flow with a smooth, flowing rhythm, making for a delightful read. The text is a celebration of the human experience, both in its complexity and its beauty. It's a journey that invites the reader to explore the depths of the human condition, to laugh, to cry, and to ponder the mysteries of the world. It's a work that's as much about the world as it is about the human experience. It's a text that's worth reading, over and over again.
Lessons in hobo etiquette

BY HAMILTONY FALK

So, you think you’re pretty cool, know what to do at a fancy dinner, how to perform vital first aid, and maybe you’ve learned how to hotwire a car, just in case. However, despite all your super-ficial knowledge of the world, I’ll be there’s one thing you don’t know enough about, and that thing is Hobos. Often referred to as “the homeless” or “them magicians people what live in shanties” this mysterious group is usually just considered to be unhygienic non-contributing members of society. Therefore, to keep you safe and out of danger of hobo attack, I’ll tell you how to recog-nize and deal with the Hobo.

First of all, Hobos are not homeless people, and rarely are they actually magical, but rather are vagrants that move from town to town stealing and glaring and boxing without a proper license. Homeless people and magicians are for the most part harmless, while Hobos can rain your life, eat your children, bring about a darkening of the sun and urinate on your car door without you even realizing it. While a home-less person or magician will of-ten have a shopping cart, bulky sleeping bag, wand and bag of can’s or bottles, Hobos rarely car-ry more than a bundle, the skel-et of a cat and a jug full of 250 proof liquor. Additionally, Hobos will have a look of world-weary rage upon their faces and are never more than six feet tall, as their religion forbids great height. And those exceeding six feet are throw from moving trains and forced to live as accountants. A final way to discover if a strange is a Hobo is to search for a scar around their stomach and extra lumps in that area, as all Hobos have one or more additional liv-ers, usually stolen from their vic-tims.

If you do find yourself face to face with a Hobo, don’t fear. There is a good chance that the Hobo is more scared of you than you are of it. This is because the government pays a bounty for each Hobo head delivered to the door of the capitol building, which has caused the rise of a guild of hobo-hunters. These hunters dress in the clothing of the regular people although the great majority are at least six feet tall and either kill the Hobo right away, or throw poison darts at them that cause them to die when they drink their precious whiskey.

Hobos fear these hunters to the extent that some of the once crowded Hobo trains ride empty except for a few of the less clev-er Hobo hunters. So if you can simply make yourself look larger by standing up tall and spread-ing your arms, and make the call of the Hobo hunter you should be able to scare a Hobo off with little effort. If you are forced to deal with a Hobo who doesn’t believe that you are a trained Hobo hunter, your best plan is to be a trained Hobo hunter. If you don’t have time to accomplish this, it may be sufficient to know karate or be a professional boxer, as Hobos are very protective of their faces, which they believe to be the key to all their powers. Ad-ditionally, Hobos fear any height greater than the distance from the bottom of a cargo container in a train to the ground and are thus unlikely to follow you to the second story of a building or up a ladder. Finally, if all hope seems lost, if you can convince the Hobo that you have no spare change, turns or liver, they will likely lose interest in you and merely mark you with urine be-fore seeking out other prey.

The final and perhaps most important way to stay safe from Hobo attacks is to stay out of the areas they are likely to inhabit. As mentioned earlier, Hobos fear heights and Hobo-hunters, so tall buildings and Hobo-hunt-ing clubs are generally safe from their wandering menace. In addi-tion, Hobos cannot cross running water, hate homeless people who do not wander from town to town and will die if kept out of contact with a train for more than a week. Thus any place with lousy train service and large numbers of homeless people, such as L.A, are pretty safe, and surrounding your home with a moat is an excellent way to keep your liver safe, your children un-un-urinated-upon and your whisky un-stolen and un-re-distilled.

Without the law degree what would make them unhygienic, non-contributing and mean mem-bers of society.

A bundle being the bag and stick in which a hobo keeps his belongings such as boots, false mustache and jet-pack.

The Hobo-hunter call is a ris-ing “Here Hobo, heeere Hobo, comere, come here Hobo” repeat-ed several times.

This height, six feet, comes up repeatedly in Hobo lore, and is greatly feared.

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

BY HAMILTONY FALK

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