Midterms week can be pleasant

Chameau names Stolper new provost

BY VIBHA LALJANI

President Chameau announced on April 18 that geologist Edward M. Stolper will step up as Caltech’s new provost on Aug 1, 2007, replacing three-year provost Paul Jennings.

In affirming the appointment of Professor Stopler as provost, Kent Kresa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees said in Chameau’s email, “Through his service as division chair and interim provost, the members of the Board of Trustees have come to admire Ed Stolper’s unique combination of energetic leadership and focused dedication to the Institute’s academic and research mission, as well as the depth of his commitment to Caltech’s faculty and students.”

The members of the Provost Search Committee spent four months considering the new provost. In Chameau’s e-mail, Professor Paul Wenmbs, who served as chair of the faculty search committee, noted that “Ed Stolper is an engaging and energizing physics course.

Jack E. Froehlich Memorial Award: William Clark

The video game expert Clark won the Froehlich award as a student with creative career path—the junior CS major is the lead programmer at a start-up video game company this summer.

“My interest in using my graphics research in video games was apparently creative enough for the group who selects the winner,” said Clark. His favorite game is Metroid Prime for Gamecube.

When he isn’t spending 40-50 hours a week on his work, Clark sings and plays guitar for his band Moneyshot Mafia and is slowly making his way through every South Park episode with his girlfriend.

Arie J. Haagen-Smit Memorial Award: Vickie Pon

Pon’s research on how fruit flies detect scents is one of her many achievements, as her prize recognizes a chemist or biologist who has shown academic promise and made recognized contributions in research to Caltech. The junior in biology, also former ASCIT secretary, is active in the Caltech Y.

Housner Award: Matthew Fischer and Huan Yang

Matthew Fischer, a senior in Computer Science, and Huan Yang, a senior in Physics, received this year’s Housner awards for their pure math SURF, said the math department liked her “knack for explaining math to a non-mathematical audience.”

The Zeigler is given to a pure or applied math student who has shown excellence in the class-room or in research. In her free time, the Avery UCC sings in the Caltech Glee Club and is a member of the Caltech Christian Fellowship.

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Math, fruit flies, and video games for scholars

BY MARISSA CEVALLOS

Unicystics, video game programmers, and fruit fly enthusiasts were among the handful of undergrads honored at the 2007 Undergraduate Academic Awards last week.

Creative contributions to research and top-notch GPAs qualified six undergrads for the prestigious awards and a lunch in the Athenaearum.

The winners, Alex Alemi, William Clark, Matthew Fisher, Po-Ling Loh, Vickie Pon, and Huan Yang were hand-selected to receive named awards by professors.

Meet the Scholars

George W. Green Prize: Alex Alemi

A sophomore in Physics, Alemi won the George W. Green Prize for his research with Professor David J. Stevenson on why Venus lacks a moon, featured in December’s Scientific American. The prize is given for original research or creative scholarship beyond class work. Alemi, who is currently taking 54 units, matched up with Professor Stevenson last summer as part of Ph 11, a selective research-based
Keep admissions blind, not crippled

BY VALERIE SVYSONE

Yesterday morning, a Directory memo arrived by e-mail with the subject: “New Committees for Student Affairs’. Most Techers probably skipped over reading it entirely since it was rather long, but this one was worth the effort, because buried three lines down the way in the following text was the statement:

“The Task Force on Admissions is asked to formulate recommend-

- Improve Caltech’s ability to enroll students who also are admi-

- Increase the representation of women amongst undergraduate

- Increase the representation of underrepresented minority students

Furthermore, the Task Force on Admissions last fall recommended a rea-

- Provide a conceptual incompatibility argument between what’s taught to ad-

- The ‘Caltech Myth’ series, where Joe Rhodes’s second part of his essay

Calling this a truly unfortunate idea doesn’t seem too much of an exaggeration. After all, as the memo acknowledged, Caltech’s historic approach to admissions has always been demographic-

- Jan 1985 Cain Report on admissions said that Caltech is perceived as a “narrow, grim school” by high school students and admissions officers. The memo also quoted heavily

For the rest of the year, and throughout the summer, I want

For the rest of the year, I’d like to address ‘the Caltech Myth,’ which several students over past decades have deprecated. One of them, the Myth, is something different. It is based on popular, external perceptions, as well as on how we perceive ourselves to be seen by the rest of the world.

Mentioning Joe Rhodes, who Ted Joue wrote about the decades-long struggle to improve Caltech, through many means like the Undergraduate Student Faculty Conference (SFC).

By CRAIG MONTUORI

The Tech is a ‘good educational institute’ – a student who

In an age where students across the nation are still faced with ever increasing amounts of information that must be learned to attain a basic level of competence in a field, where do we pick up our analytic thinking skills that make Tech graduates so notable?

I would respond with a question: in an age where students across the nation are still faced with ever increasing amounts of information that must be learned to attain a basic level of competence in a field, where do we pick up our analytic thinking skills that make Tech graduates so notable?

If you have comments on this issue, please contact the Editors:

Chair: Geoff Blake (Pref-

VOLUME CIVIL, NUMBER 26

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Efficacy, humanity of lethal injection questioned

Lethal injection with a three-drug “cocktail” has been the standard for executions in thirty-seven states since its invention thirty years ago. However, a recent study shows that the implementation of the procedure varies widely between states, drawing questions as to whether it is an inhumane method of execution.

The standard set of drugs administered consists of sodium thiopental as anesthetic, pancuronium bromide as paralytic, and potassium chloride to stop the heart.

However, the study, published in PLoS-Medicine last week, found that the dosages of anesthetic administered to the executed varied widely within and between states, varying from 6 to 70 mg/kg body weight. In some cases, the dosages administered were barely sufficient for surgical anesthesia, and in many cases were not adjusted for body weight or drug resistance; furthermore, the cardiac arrest usually caused by potassium chloride often does not occur, possibly due to interference from other drugs.

The study concludes that many executed prisoners may be conscious as they suffocate, rather than being unconscious as they are supposed to be.

Their position is expected to anger island nations and other countries already feeling the impact of global warming.

The plan, under discussion at the IPCC conference in Bangkok, must be unanimously approved by the 120 governments represented. The final report will be issued Friday.

U.S., China cooperate to weaken UN climate policy

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)’s proposed plan for fighting climate change is too strong for the U.S. and China.

In their initial comments on the IPCC policy as drawn up by a panel of scientists, the two countries advocate a higher cap on greenhouse gases and a slower timeframe for reducing emissions, as well as inserting language into the 120 government statements that the cost of available current technologies to reduce emissions “could be unacceptable high”.

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U.S. POLITICS

Accused DC madam will sell client list for defense $5 million charges dropped

Deborah Palfrey, accused of running a prostitution ring in Washington, has vowed to reveal her client list to pay her legal defense bills unless charges against her are dropped.

Palfrey claims her business was an escort, adult phone-fantasy, and massage service only, and not in violation of any laws. However, she also has a list of more than 1000 phone numbers, some from elite Washingtonians, which would nonetheless be embarrassing to many if revealed.

Former head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Randall Tobias, resigned last week after his name was first to be revealed. Denying legal violations, he nonetheless resigned “for personal reasons”. Palfrey expressed her sympathy, but renewed her threats to reveal clients if proceedings continue.

Her attorney claims she has given four years of phone records to ABC News.

Stolper will replace Jennings

Stolper, elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1994.

While simultaneously conducting research, Stolper was the acting provost in 2004 and served as the Executive Officer for Geochemistry between 1989 and 1994. He was chair of the Division of Geological and Planetary sciences from 1994 to 2004.

Book sale Friday and Saturday

The annual Friends of Caltech Libraries book sale will be held on Friday, May 11, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and on Saturday, May 12, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on campus in the Winnetti lounge.

For Caltech faculty, students, and staff: During this event, when you become a new member of The Friends of Caltech Libraries, you will receive 1/2 off your membership dues and a 25% discount on books purchased that day!

Bring your questions and suggestions for President Jean-Lou Chameau at this Q&A forum! This discussion takes place at 5 PM on Beckman Institute Auditorium.

The Friends of Caltech Libraries is a non-profit organization of alumni, faculty, staff, and students established to support the library services at Caltech. Your membership will help us continue to preserve our collections and expand our services. You will receive a newsletter and other valuable benefits. For more information, visit the library website.

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Tennis in review

BY NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

MEN

After having some ups and downs, the men’s tennis team finished 7th out of 8 in SCIACs, defeating Whittier at the Championship this Friday and Saturday. The season was difficult, as the team lost almost an entire starting lineup from last year after the seniors graduating. Composed of mostly freshmen and sophomores, Beavers did not have a single senior and had a hard time competing with larger, more experienced teams.

The team dropped one place in SCIACs last year, when it placed 6th in the final round. The 2006 season also saw a higher number of wins outside the championship, with four victories during the season as compared to this year’s two.

The team started off strong, winning their second match of the season with a score of 6-3 against La Sierra University. However, the promising start was followed by a string of thirteen losses against other conference teams, only broken up by a close 5-4 win over BOLA University. The championships, which took place at CLU, witnessed the team defeat Whittier with a score of 5-3.

The match was very close, with Eric Tai (JR) battling #6 Whittier’s更好 during the deciding match. The match went into third set, which started with Tai in a tight situation, being down 2-5. However, he started battling back and brought the score to 6-3 in his favor. The match ended acceptably with a default victory for Caltech after Tai’s opponent was unable to continue due to physical condition.

Co-captain Vivek Nareshan (JR) said about the championshipships, “We had some really good effort, and we lost against Whittier when we played them before. It shows us that we can improve and that we actually peaked at the end of the season.”

The outlook for the upcoming year is quite positive, as the team does not have seniors to lose, unlike the previous year.

WOMEN

The women also had an intense championships experience, coming very close to placing 5th in the conference. They fell short into 6th place out of 8 teams competing, ranking above Cal Lutheran and Whittier. The match against La Verne, which decided the final ranking, concluded with a score of 4-5, with the deciding game going into third set.

Sophomore Chen Yee Liaw played her way to earn a spot on the SCIACs 1st Team, an honor reserved to eight women in the entire conference field. Liaw also ranked fourth in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association West Region rankings.

Throughout the season, the team was able to defeat La Sierra University and Cal Lutheran with a score of 6-3 in both games. They also decidedly defeated visiting Mills College with a score of 8-1.

The team, which has improved significantly since the beginning of the term, is going to lose two of its starter players, Diana Lin and Kelly Lin, who will graduate in June.

Nevertheless, the team’s performance this year gives much hope for the year to come. “We’re proud to be competitive within the league,” said freshman Leslie Tong. Hopefully, the team will continue to be competitive next season as well.

NFL Draft not what it’s cracked up to be

BY HARRISON STEIN

In a National Football League typically devoid of extended amounts of excitement, it was probably too much to ask to follow an exhausting regular season with a similarly riveting draft.

There was very little intrigue in this year’s two-day extravaganza, as the first round was pretty predictable, the second round lasted for ages, the second day had just two recognizable names (Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith and traded NFL receiver Randy Moss), and the teams combined their offensive efficiency with mammoth tackle Joe Thomas.

A quarterback went 11th for the 6th time in 7 years, the Detroit Lions took a receiver in the first round for the 4th time in 5 years, and the champion Colts drafted even more offense.

Eschewing public ridicule and choosing the best player available instead of addressing other glaring holes, Detroit Lions GM Matt Millen drafted another receiver, Georgia Tech’s Calvin Johnson. With an unbelievable mix of size, speed, size and strength, Johnson is the best receiver to come into the draft since...Detroit’s Charles Rogers.

Unfortunately for Lions fans, Rogers was a disaster and is now out of the league. Hopefully, the returns will be slightly higher for Johnson as the Lions have been an unfortunate mess since savior Barry Sanders retired.

The Browns surprised the pundits by passing on prinately Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn, but then surprised them again by giving a king’s ransom to re-enter the first round when Quinn was still available at pick 22.

Cleveland gauged Dallas its second round pick and next year’s first round pick for Quinn who will team up with mammoth tackle Joe Thomas, this year’s top pick. The trade might be risky, but with one wining season in the last ten years, this is a risk the Browns had to make.

In addition, the Redkins drafted safety LaRon Landry even though they already have one of the best safeties in the game (Sean Taylor), the Texans drafted a young defensive lineman, 19 year old Amobi Okoye, even though they did the same thing last year (Mario Williams), and the Falcon took someone named Jamal Anderson probably in memory of the old days when Jamal Anderson was their star running back.

Other than that, the lengthy draft was pretty ordinary as most teams filled their biggest needs with reasonable picks. Teams that typically draft poorly — the Redskins, Dolphins and Vikings — drafted poorly again, and teams that typically draft well — the Bears, Patriots and Panthers — did so again.

Both NCAA championship participants were well represented in the draft. The Dolphins took Ohio State speedster Teddy Ginn about 10 spots too high, and the Colts took his receiver teammate Anthony Gonzalez to bolster the best receiving corps in the NFL. Florida had two players, Jarvis Moss and Reggie Nelson, drafted from their dominant defense.

There was very little intrigue after the first round because most of the top players were actually picked in the first round. Carolina picked sliding USC receiver Dwayne Jarrett who should be interesting because Jarrett and future teammate Keyshawn Johnson have a well-publicized feud.

Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith was thoroughly exposed in the championship game shellacking by passing on princely Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn, the Packers selected LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell with the first pick. They did the same thing last year.

Since NFL General Managers are (usually) smarter than us, it’s really hard to tell what teams succeeded and which failed. I can assign grades for the drafts, but the odds are, I’ll look like an idiot three years from now.

JaMarcus Russell can become a Hall of Fame quarterback or he can just as easily become Ryan Leaf. Calvin Johnson might be the next Jerry Rice, or the next Charles Rogers. Therefore, let’s just say the NFL draft was very, very long and I wish I could have my Saturday back! 

Next week in sports

Men and women’s Ultimate frisbee teams compete in Regionals

Women’s water polo wraps up

Track seasons winds down
HOUSING OFFICE CORNER

UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER HOUSING LOTTERY INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, May 7th
5:00 pm - Summer Housing Request / Lottery Terms must be submitted on no at: http://housing.caltech.edu/undergrad

Thursday, May 10th
5:00 pm - Housing Office posts Lottery Numbers

Monday, May 14th
5:00 pm - Seven House summer pilot due to Housing Office

Tuesday, May 15th
5:00 pm - Housing Office re-posts Lottery Rankings

Thursday, May 24th
1:30 pm - Unaffiliated summer lottery for remaining off-campus spaces / Housing Office – Center for Student Services, building 98

Thursday, May 31st
5:00 pm - Summer Contracts due to the Housing Office

If you have questions, please contact us or stop by our office

Housing Office
Center for Student Services, Building 98, 1st Floor
Tel: 626-395-6178 / Email: housing@caltech.edu
http://housing.caltech.edu/undergrad

CLONE AND KORK
EXPLORING THE MYSTERY OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS

www.dimensions.com
BY CINDY KO

Every spring term, I have the choice of whether or not to squeeze an ultra fun trip to Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival into my midterms week-end. Of course, if I do, I have plenty of work to make up when I come back, but hopefully the experience of seeing all my favorite bands at once is more than worth it.

Coachella is a two-to-three day weekend in the desert where rock bands, DJs, and other big name performers converge for the entire day and night. Typically, the number of attendees reaches upwards of 25,000. Where do you put that many people, plus four permanent stages, private gardens, shady tents, film tents, life-size art pieces, etc? A polo field! You really get a sense of the acres and acres of flat grass to have a weekend party for 25,000. Coachella has been often compared to the Woodstock of yore; in fact, in its inaugural year, it was the “anti-Woodstock,” promising to make up for the shortcomings and disastrous happenings of Woodstock ’99.

Thanks to Coachella creator and producer, Paul Williams, and the addition, Perry Farrell, Coachella always seems to boast the best line-up. In the past, it’s had Bjork, The Strokes, Weezer, The Flaming Lips, and had not officially played as a band since the 80s., Kraftwerk, Coldplay, Radiohead, The Dismembered Tones, and the list goes on.

Furthermore, Coachella seems to be bringing back the power of re-unifying legendary bands like The Pixies and most recently, Rage Against The Machine.

This year, due to my stupefying full schedule, I was faced with the 792 over 1224errar notes, the decision of whether or not to fork over hundreds of dollars for a three-day pass, I decided to

For a brief hour and a half of watching them perform, I understand why the Chili Peppers have kept a huge, and still-expanding fan base and have gained a time-honored reputation for being one of the world’s greatest bands.

But in a brief hour and a half of a three-day pass, I decided to

by robert karl

Bright Eyes singer and songwriter Conor Oberst’s earlier albums often sound like they were written and recorded while bouncing around on a crosstown Los Angeles bus after an emotion-al breakdown: choppy, dissonant, nced, heavy, and stylistically conflicting.

But Bright Eyes’ album Cassadaga has mollified out. It was a pleasant surprise to take a train across the Midwest. Oberst’s usually wavering, whiny voice becomes more the right note here or there.

Unfortunately, the compositions aren’t as unique as those off previous albums. The melody of the verses in “Classic Cars”, recurring in his work, as is the symbolism conjured up by scales, drums, mirrors, and especially

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in stark contrast with some of the laborious rehearsals and the long rigmarole of sound checks don’t seem to the toll that they used to.

from my view, i enjoyed a tour of the concert, which started with “can’t stop” from their 2002 album, by the way. i was thrilled to hear it as the first chord to the last, just as they were thrilled to be playing it.

this would be analogous to the current-day radiohead playing their song “creep”, or the late-stage Beatles playing “i want to hold your hand”-bands just don’t want to play their first hit because it’s boring for them

and as a techer i feel like we have a lot in common. well, we both complain a lot. i guess.

like any good story, the begin-
ing of cassadaga is tied to the end of the last song on the al-
burn, “lume tree”, oberst juxta-
poses the end and the very begin-
ing, a tree of knowledge and the loneliness of death.

and to have admitted that the most interest i had in the red hot chili peppers was minimal—i’ve never bought their cd, or anything—but i can appreciate their musical talent.

but in a brief hour and a half of watching them perform, i understand why the chili peppers have kept a huge, and still-expanding fan base and have gained a time-honored reputation for being one of the world’s greatest bands.

someday in the near future when my grandchildren that listen to the red hot chili peppers, i can brag to them that i once saw the chili peppers live in concert. yes? put a check next to future cool-grand-

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Cassadaga

Bright Eyes

Grade: A

The new album flows well, a

zen of performance-dom, where the day to day rigors of touring, the labor of rehearsals, and the rigmarole of sound checks don’t seem to the toll that they used to.

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Cassadaga

Bright Eyes

Grade: A
The Tech is online!

Features
News, Features, Opinion, Humor, Arts and Entertainment
Archives exist from April 2, 2007; more to come

Look forward to:
* Searchable articles by keyword, author
* This week in photos
* Submitting article ideas to the Tech
* Comment on editorials

SIGN UP AND WIN!

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Choosing Caltech was a very smart move. And choosing Caltech Employees Federal Credit Union is, in many ways, just as smart. Like your education, our financial advantages will last you a lifetime.

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Through 7/31/07, for every new member you sign up (including yourself), you’ll get a chance to enter special Membership Drawings and win $500 or $1,000. You can also refer your entire immediate family and earn even more entries. Sign up parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters...even your spouse and kids.

Call us or come in to join and get all the information you’ll need. Sharing our winning advantage simply makes a smart move brighter.

SIG
SUSQUEHANNA INTERNATIONAL GROUP, LLP
www.sig.com
It’s Your Move

MAY 1, 2007
7
Season Review

Caltech Baseball tops several SCIAC statistical leaderboards

BY: HAMILTONY FALK

The Men’s baseball team had a successful season this year, winning two games, including a 25-3 win over their rivals, the “Alums” at home, and a hard fought 5-3 win over Dodgertown, a team of such high quality that it shares part of its name with a professional baseball team. The team had an off year in the categories of hits, runs scored, steals, and strikeouts (by a pitcher), but was among the conference’s leader in hit batters, errors, strikeouts (by a batter and by a pitcher) and most importantly, having a good time. While their record did not reflect it, some teams were so intimidated by the mighty Beaver men that they batted with their non-dominant hands as a sign of respect. The team really enjoyed going out for pizza or ice cream after games, and focused on sportsmanship, not running up the score, and treating their opponents with respect. The team hopes to win a few more games next season, but won’t mind if they don’t.

“We’re really just in it to try and get on one of those NCAA commercials about going pro in something other than sports,” said one imaginary team member, “and the pizza after the game!”

Caltech players are leading SCIAC in:

Wild pitches
1. M. Tan, CIT............   23
2. K. Noertker, CIT....   15
3. M. Comstock, CIT.... 11
4. R. Bogner, CIT....... 10

Hit batters
1. M. Comstock, CIT... 21
2. R. Bogner, CIT........ 18

Batters Struck out:
1. K. Noertker, CIT..... 62
2. M. Glassman, CIT...  25
3. M. Comstock, CIT... 18

Errors (Fielders)
1. M. Glassman, CIT...  25
2. K. Noertker, CIT.....  25

Stolen bases against
1. S. Surdyk, CIT........ 58
2. K. Noertker, CIT..... 57

Caltech is leading the SCIAC as a team with:

147 errors
22 losses
63 wild pitches
58 hit batters
.174 team batting average

(lowest in league)

Statistics as of 4/24/07

Kevin Noertker realizes he forgot his cup in the locker room.

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125