The first time in Caltech’s history, aged Houses with donuts, apologizing for any damage or stress they might have caused. This event coincided with Ricketts’s weekly Thursday Night Drinking (TND) event after they agreed as a House to abstain from alcohol for four weeks to “sit down and rethink things,” according to Ricketts House President Chris Moody.

Chang reported that 9-10 doors and doorframes were damaged, and the only Houses that were not damaged were Lloyd, Ricketts, and Avery. Chang said that this event normally has some small amount of damage associated with it, but “...never to this extent before.”

Ricketts House, however, seems more concerned about making reparations toward the other Houses than about leniency punishment.

Ricketts held an apology House Tour on Thursday, May 10, when members visited all of the damaged Houses with donuts, apologizing for any damage or stress they might have caused. This event coincided with Ricketts’s weekly Thursday Night Drinking (TND) event after they agreed as a House to abstain from alcohol for the evening to reflect on what had happened last Saturday. Chang said that while the Housing Department was “disappointed” with the damage, he felt it was “credible appreciative of all the work students do.”

This year saw the return of the three day PFW, which, according to Bischoff, was an important factor in this year’s higher PFW enrollment versus last year’s. Of the 219 PFW attendees, 135 have enrolled, a yield of 62%.

The administration considers this low enrollment, since the target class size is 240, and admissions will be offered to some of the approximately 170 people currently on the waiting list.

Despite the proclaimed success of the latest round of admissions, President Chameau has formed an Admissions Task Force charged with reevaluating the current admissions process. The task force is comprised of staff, faculty, and students, with Michael Woods and Maria Gutowski representing the undergraduates.

The task force is concerned with determining how Caltech can best enroll minorities and women, and whether admissions should take into account a holistic view of the class, but Bischoff said that, “No one is suggesting a radical departure from the way admissions is currently done.”

No unqualified students would be admitted, said Bischoff, adding that after quantitative standards were met, the admissions committee had to make admissions decisions based on other, more subjective factors.

Bischoff encouraged students concerned with future admissions policies to contact him directly or through the undergraduates on the admissions task force.

The percentage of women in the entering freshman class is the highest in at least the past eight years.
Every so often I get a pat on the back for being the editor of a paper “on the upswing.” Just about everyone who reads the paper has a smile and a positive word.

But I’m often more interested in the harsh words than the encouragement. So forgive me if I talk about what’s still wrong with the Tech.

The other evening, I walked into a Blacker Lounge filled with people who didn’t know campus life. It had copies of the Tech open, and several were yelling about how bad the writing is, is it not funny, the Homer Page is up, and the hell is Hamiltyn Falk anywhere?

One person was about to start into a loud rant, saw me, paused, and then ranted anyway. The episode was amusing, but most importantly informative. Though I haven’t had a chance to scan for specifics, which articles were bad? What would you fannier on Page 8? How could the editing be improved?

I found out a lot that I would have never known had I continued my blissfully ignorant way. There’s actually a vocal group that cares about the quality of the Tech. But how much do they or anyone else know without eavesdropping in on a loud conversation?

Maybe there are more of you out there. If there are, I’d like to talk with you. I stood up from the group at the Broad Cafe from 12:1-1 on Mondays and Fridays, and you can always find me on the Tech. I’m always up for a gripe or two. There’s simply no way the Tech can exist without knowing what to fix. If students care as much as I think they do about the Tech, they should use their voice to tell us what you’d like to read about.

And if you’re a hot-shot writer, maybe you should consider joining the staff. The same thing goes for photographers and lay-out editors.

There are talented students avoiding extra-curriculars is a recurring phenomenon at Tech. Qualified students refuse to join extra-curricular activities because they’re not up to their standards. I’ve heard musicians say they won’t join the jazz band because their high school band was better.

It seems like just about every student I’ve talked to who has any activity lacks the critical mass to sustain itself, even with the amazing talent that Caltech attracts. Granted, I understand everyone is in over their head, but even if they had talented writers there were, and if they all decided to join the Tech at the same time, imagine the great newspaper we’d have!”

I’m not saying everyone should align the ASCIT BOD and sign their name in blood to the proposed changes and what the Tech student interests from the edge of the BoC and contact with Tech. With their detailed knowledge and I continue to fully support the one who submitted the idea in the dual nature of the ASCIT VP, Jean’s Undergraduate Self-Governance paper over the past year, I came to believe that as student-organized committees of the Honor Code expanded, the additional duties of the ASCIT VP were no longer necessary. The 1957 little t stresses the dual nature of the ASCIT VP, saying, “[the ASCIT VP] also runs the combined charity drive with the BoC, Chairs at Large, the Vice-President reviews Honor Key applications.” The 1974 little t stresses the dual nature of the BoC, pointing out that “the dual position is merely an additional title given to the ASCIT Chair. At Large, thePresident is interested in being an ASCIT VP when she ran for the position, but I now better believe that it is impossible for anyone to do more than be BoC Chair; that is, if he or she doesn’t have time to do so.

That said, I believe that having someone address the additional duties can deal with both the President
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ASCIT Minutes: May 9, 2007

Comic book collection expanding

Present: Chris Gonzales, Mike Grinolds, Andrea Dubin, Angela Zah, Erika Bhuyan, Patrick Her- ring, Daryl Coleman, Zack Higbee

Absent: Caleb Ng, Mike Woods

Guests: Vibha Laljani, Michael Ferrara, Jayson Messenger, Natalie Becca

*Funding

-Jayson Messenger from the Caltech comic book club requested $100 to buy comic books from an alum who is graduating and selling her comic books. The comic book collection used to be in the old coffeehouse along with the DVD library. Currently SPECTRE found the collection and has it, but will give it back to them. It will be stored in the ASCIT library. They plan on purchasing about 70 comic books. Approved (6/0/0)

-OASIS is looking for $500 for their cultural show. Approved (7/0/0)

-The Science for Social Impact forum wants to bring out speakers to be on a panel. They need to pay for parking permits, lunch, facilities, etc. Michael Ferrara requested $200. This is the first year they have done this, but they want to make it annual. It is open to entire Caltech community including undergrads. Approved (6/0/1)

-Angela Zah requests funding to take Professor Gilman out to lunch at the Ath. along with Kelly Lin, Ellen Hsu, and Jean Sun. Approved (5/0/1)

-*Formal

-Erika reported that we made about $450 from Spiderman ticket sales, and we received $4000 from housing. We are paying $1500 for limos as transportation this year to ASCIT formal.

-Other

-ASCIT speakers are still ASCIT speakers, they are not Ricketts’s. Ricketts needs to show Angela receipts from Interhouse so they can get money.

-Patrick has contacted committees about the appointed members.

-Zack is Elections Chair for this coming election. Approved (6/0/0)

ASCIT constitution. The minutes are the student body, as specified in the minutes every week as a service to the student body, as specified in the ASCIT constitution. The minutes are contributed by the ASCIT secretary (Andrea Dubin).

College Life and Disordered Eating
With Dr. Marcia Rorty

When: Thursday, May 17th at Noon
Where: Center for Student Services, 2nd floor

Do you have eating concerns? Is someone you care about struggling with disordered eating? If so, come to this informative and interactive workshop and learn about disordered eating and how you can help someone you care about.

Sponsored by the Counseling Center

Tour Guides Needed!

Interested in helping recruit the best students to Caltech???

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is looking for new tour guides for this summer and for the next academic year!

To request more information and to pick up an application, please contact Cameron Pinckney, pinckney@admissions.caltech.edu, or stop by and pick up an application at the Admissions Office (Steele House).

Application deadline: Monday, May 21st. Interviews will be held shortly thereafter.

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Caltech/JPL Aero Club

For more information, go to: http://aascit.caltech.edu or email club president and instructor Joe Areeda (joe@areeda.com)

Write for The Tech!

Something going on that you think Techers should know about?

Want to do some investigative reporting?

We pay up to $25 for news articles. Publication is at editors’ discretion.

Or come to our staff meetings, Mondays and Fridays at noon at Broad Cafe.

Or e-mail us: tech@caltech.edu

Announcement

Voting on ASCIT bylaw change runs today from 10:00 - 23:59

Voting on the proposed ASCIT bylaw changes regarding the structure of the BoC and IRC will run Monday, May 14 (today) from 10:00 AM to 11:59 PM today. Ballots may be cast either on the Olive Walk in paper form or online at donut.caltech.edu/vote. The first 24-hour protest period will begin after 11:59 PM today. A summary of the proposed changes can be found at www.its.caltech.edu/~cgonzo/summary.ppt. Please e-mail any questions to elections chair Zack Higbee (zhigbee@caltech.edu).

OASIS to present Indian dance and stage show Friday in Ramo

Annual OASIS Cultural Show: “Roo-ba-roo” (Urdu for “face to face”) Friday, May 18, 2007, 6:30 PM, Ramo Auditorium

The Organization of Associated Students from the Indian Subcontinent (OASIS) will highlight Indian culture at the Annual Indian Cultural Show. The program includes:

* A humorous play based on the experiences of a “fresh off the boat” undergraduate Indian student at Caltech and his experiences as he gets accustomed to the crazy life of an undergraduate at Caltech, and learns to live with an inevitable “culture-shock”.

* A Classical Indian dance performances based on the art form called Kathak,

* A play based on the acclaimed Satyajit Ray movie, “Agantuk” (The Stranger).

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Write for The Tech!

Something going on that you think Techers should know about?

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We pay up to $25 for news articles. Publication is at editors’ discretion.

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Or e-mail us: tech@caltech.edu
Ricketts opts for Thursday Night Thinking

By Natalya Kostandova

The Churchill Scholarship

The Churchill Scholarship, established in 1963 at recommendation of Winston Churchill himself, recognizes 11 students from institutions from the entire country. The scholars are study at Churchill College, Cambridge for a year, with their tuition and fees paid by the Churchill Foundation. The students also receive a living stipend for the time being that is not an entirely paid by the Churchill Foundation.

Recipient: Emily Russell, Blacker, Physics Major

Emily Russell became one of 11 students nationwide to receive the Churchill Scholarship this year as she gets ready to graduate from Caltech with a degree in physics. While Russell is not sure what research she will pursue in Cambridge next year, she hopes to work on a project in either condensed matter or astrophysics.

“I’m thrilled about it,” said Russell about the prospect of studying in Britain. “It’s a little bit out of the country for a bit, but I’ve heard really good things about it.

For Russell, applying in a different country was not entirely new as she studied abroad in Sweden as a sophomore. Most people don’t know that Russell is confident about her passion in physics.

“I was about 10 years old when I discovered that astronomy was the subject for me,” Russell said. “It was the universe, said Russell. Growing fascinated with science in a summer camp, Russell further developed her interest as she got older, although switching emphasis from astronomy to fundamental physics during high school.

While at Cambridge, Russell also plans to participate in theatre and hope to explore Britain and Europe.

The Hertz Fellowship

This year, three out of fifteen students chosen for the fellowship from institutions nationwide come from Caltech. The fellowship, established in 1963, supports the chosen students for five years of graduate studies in the areas for computer science, giving the recipients more freedom to select the area of applied science, giving the recipients more freedom to select the area of applied science, giving the recipients more freedom to select the area of applied science, giving the recipients more freedom to select the area of applied science. To him, however, receiving the fellowship made all the difference.

“Actually, if I wouldn’t have gotten the Hertz, I wouldn’t have gone to grad school.”

Fisher will attend Stanford in the fall and currently plans to work on research related to visio and simulation. While he does not have a thesis subject in mind, he says that Stanford offers a wide variety of choices that suit his interests.

For Matthew Fisher, receiving the fellowship was a big surprise. Doubtful of his chances from the beginning due to the relative unpopularity of computer science among the fields that are characteristic of Hertz Fellows, Fisher was close to giving up on the application process.

“I was originally going to drop out of the application due to the competition, but it was my father, who is a professor, who encouraged me to apply,” said Fisher.

Wang will start her graduate school experience three weeks after graduating from Caltech.
Food Review: Broad Cafe goes Mex

BY ANDREW FREDDO AND DANNAH ALMASCO

¡Hola! Welcome to our first food column for The Tech. We are Andrew Freddo and Danah Almasco, here to critique your food options in Pasadena. As freshmen, we have spent our time here in search of satisfying and unique restaurants that can spice up your life at Tech. It only takes one person to write a food review, but it takes two to offer a comprehensive evaluation of the restaurant. We hope our viewpoints can guide you to make educated food decisions at Tech.

Goal: To review the newly revamped Broad Cafe, which just switched over from Thai to Mexican.

Stockroom options: The menu of the new Broad ranges from Mexican standbys such as fajitas and burritos to classic grill items and sandwiches which have remained on the menu.

Materials and Cost: To get a sampling of the new selections, we ordered the following: the Broad Chicken Burrito, the Carne Asada Torta, and the Cheese Enchiladas Latinas. All ranged from $5 to $5.50.

Observations:

The burrito: fortunately, this burrito follows basic thermodynamic principles; its entropy increased very rapidly as it was eaten. Unfortunately, this means the tortilla broke easily and spilled its contents onto the plate. The chicken and beans were a bit dry and underseasoned, leaving the burrito as a whole without much moisture. It is possible that lack of guacamole, sour cream, and salsa contributed to its dryness. Still, this was a very filling meal.

The torta: the beef could have been more moist and flavorful. Contrarily, the bread was very soggy and not toasted, as a ‘torta’ should be. The sandwich was also lacking in the distinctive Mexican staples of guacamole and sour cream, which means it was essentially no different from an ordinary beef sandwich. As a beef sandwich, it was satisfying, and there definitely was enough for a good-sized meal. As a torta, however, it was disappointing.

The enchiladas: these had a good flavor, and were good to eat with the burrito and torta as it was very moist. They were very cheesy, but packed no punch. The refried beans that went along with it were exceptional and very creamy. They complemented the rice, which was also true to authentic Mexican cuisine. The lettuce and tomato on the side lightened up the dish.

The chips: in any Mexican restaurant, the chips can make or break a meal. The chips from the new Broad were a bit on the thick side, and were also too oily with little flavor. Salsa probably would have helped, but may not be able to go through the thick chip.

Conclusion: La Parilla at Broad is a good attempt by food services to bring variety and depth to Caltech Dining. You get a lot of food for not too much money but you have to be willing to make a small sacrifice in Mexican authenticity. Some small adjustments to the food preparation methods have the potential for a lot of improvement, and if you are looking for a change of pace and something different, check it out!

Editor’s Grade:
B
(We actually liked the chips)

Saturday May 19th
9pm, Winnett Center
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astrive® Student Loans
Ditch Day: The lost art of brute force stacks
How Techers used to get down and dirty on Ditch Day, and why they still should

BY ERIN FLANAGIN

At some point during a Ditch Day stack last year, between fighting the "X-Men" with water guns and climbing the giant antenna on the Winnnet center, I found myself talking to my dad, who was on campus for his 30 year reunion. He had seen some of the stacks around campus (which mostly meant watching groups of Techers run around in various colors of silkscreened t-shirts) and decided to share with me some bits of Caltech lore. In his stories, he said, Ditch Day stacks were a little different than the ones today. While almost all of today's stacks are a spinoff of what he calls "finest stacks," there once existed an entirely different breed of stack called the "brute force stack." Finest stacks involved a series of puzzles that would eventually produce the combination to a stacked room. Brute force stacks usually couldn't be tackled without a jackhammer.

The original idea behind stacking was to prevent underclassmen from trashing the rooms of seniors who had made themselves scarce on Ditch Day. Seniors would brag in the preceding weeks that no underclassmen would be able to break into their rooms, but most still left bribes in the form of food and drink in their rooms to dissuade underclassmen having problems. The irony of brute force stacks: the more secure they were, the less likely underclassmen would be able to break into their rooms, but most still left bribes in the form of food and drink in their rooms to dissuade underclassmen having problems. The irony of brute force stacks: the more secure they were, the less likely underclassmen would be able to break into their rooms.

I was told the story of one particularly avid stacker. Lou Scheffer ('74 BS '75), who loved Ditch Day so much that he spent three years (once as a senior, once while getting his master's, and once as an alumnus) stacking rooms. He began by building a 4x4 braced stack in Room 203. It was quite certainly a much higher feat of stacking in those days. The next year, Lou built a "small electronics box" that contained a simple 4x4 braced against the ceiling. It wouldn't be long before Lou and his friends started building other stacks with layers upon layers of fiber cement, metal plates, and railroad ties. The senior-underclassman rivalry is gone and seniors now simply assume a simple 4x4 braced stack to be the new standard. Ditch Day stacks resemble more of a campus-wide scavenger hunt than a break-in.

Of course, these days, performing even such a delicate maneuver as removing part of a wall and a sink to get into a stacked room would give the housing director a heart attack. Ditch Day has evolved into a more docile, press-friendly event, with most stacks resembling more of a campus-wide scavenger hunt than a break-in.

Ditch Day was quite certainly a much higher stakes game in the seventies. Of course, these days, performing even such a delicate maneuver as removing part of a wall and a sink to get into a stacked room would give the housing director a heart attack. Ditch Day has evolved into a more docile, press-friendly event, with most stacks resembling more of a campus-wide scavenger hunt than a break-in. The senior-underclassman rivalry is gone and seniors are sometimes even on call for underclassmen having problems with their stacks. The senior's wrath was focused on Ditch Day stacks that participated in so far, and I'm sure that most other underclassmen share my sentiment. What is important, though, is that we remember the significance of our traditions, and their origins. In the case of Ditch Day, these origins are simply the act of breaking into peoples' rooms while they skip school. And if that isn't the best premise for a school tradition then I don't know what is.

Acknowledgments: I would like to thank Lou Scheffer and my dad, Steve Flanagan ('76) for providing me with the stories and knowledge I needed to write this article.
If you are interested in working for The Tech, feel free to attend our weekly meetings on Mondays and Fridays from 12 to 1 PM at the Broad Cafe.
We also accept free-lance submissions, but we always reserve the right to withhold submissions from publication.
If we print your material, we will pay you up to $25 at our discretion.
Please email submissions to tech@caltech.edu.

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you fear real life, and also be your time as a student because good idea if you want to prolong School in their major. This is a in the sciences, and go to Grad themselves to more schooling and cons of the various choices.

Post-Caltech plans: what to do if you graduate

BY HAMILTONY FALK

Someday, almost many of Caltech students end up being seniors who will graduate. When this time finally comes, you’ll probably realize that there are more decisions in life than wheth-er to go to the C-store or coffee house, or if you really need to start that set tonight or can it wait til tomorrow at 4 AM.

Probably chief among these new decisions is the one about what you want to do in the post-Caltech portion of your life. There are options of various grad schools, jobs, military service, taking time off, retiring and many others. As an invaluable service to those soon to go through these decisions, I’ll break down the pros and cons of the various choices.

The most common path for Caltech undergrads is to subject themselves to more schooling in the sciences, and go to Grad School in their major. This is a good idea if you want to prolong your time as a student because you fear real life, and also keep ignoring fi-nancial realities because you’ll have a small salary/stipend to live off of, and also helps you pursue your love of science. Plus, every-one is doing it, you’re not cool if you don’t do it, do you want to be the only one not going to grad school?

On the other hand, it means you’ll never escape the depress-ing and low paid world of aca-demia (unless you do) and despite what they tell you, grad school will probably be more like Tech than any oth-er thing you could do. You’ll be forced to be some insane tenured professors slave, work 26 hour days and 14 hour nights, and live in cardboard “graduate housing.”

If you’re a wuss, you can also try to get a Masters degree instead of a PhD, giving you the same choices in another year, but that’s the coward’s way out.

Another option that continues your schooling, but gets you a lit-tle bit out of the sciences is to go to Law, Med or Business school. These have similar short turn benefits and problems of science grad school, except that you will be hundreds of thousands of dol-lars in debt more short term, and many hundreds of thousands of dollars richer in the long term.

Unfortunately you’ll probably need a higher GPA and profes-sors that don’t hate you to write recommendations, so this op-tion tends to be only available for those too in love with science to be interested.

If you’d rather avoid spend-ing more time studying and be-ing graded, you may want to get a job. You can work as a scien-tist or engineer for some tech company, or in business or some other field unrelated to science. You’ll be forced to be a middle ground in most ways. That is why this is probably your best choice, since it really is a middle ground in most ways.

So now you know all your op-tions, and hopefully you’ll make a wise decision (although, lets admit it, you’re probably going to screw this one up too). Just re-member, if you put “wrote real, investigative news for the Tech” on your resume you can get almost any job you want.

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COMICS

Interested in writing comics? You can get paid up to $15 per comic for the Tech. Email tech@caltech.edu for details.

Footnotes
1 As if you still love science.
2 Nelson Gelatin Desert
3 Bees! In the room next to the silver saillfish.
4 Hopefully by now you’re as-suming that these footnotes are going to be used as clues for Ditch Day. But before you jump to any conclusions, consider that I might just be lazy and didn’t feel like including real footnotes. Or did I?